2024

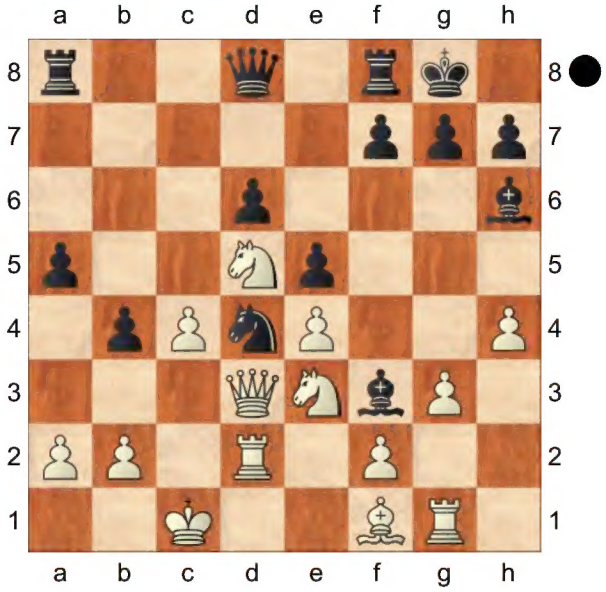
chess notes vol. 12

Sicilian Sveshnikov

B33

□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2770**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
Zagreb Superbet Blitz (12) 14.07.2024
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 12...0-0 is the fancy move. 12...0-0 ist der angesagte Zug. **13.g3 Bg5 14.h4**
[14.Bg2 0-0 15.0-0 Ne7 16.b3 *(16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Qd3 Qc7 18.Rad1 Qc5 19.Kh1 Ra6 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Bf6 22.b3 a4 23.a3 axb3 24.axb4 Qa7 25.Qxb3 Bg4 26.Rb1 Ra4 27.Qe3 Qa6 28.b5 Qa5 29.e5 Bd8 30.Nd4 Bb6* Nisipeanu,L (2673)-Kotronias,V (2583) 111/(69) Aix les Bains 2011 *)* 16...Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qd3 Qb6 19.Kh1 a4 20.f4 axb3 21.axb3 Rxa1 22.Nxa1 exf4 23.gxf4 Bf6 24.Nc2 Bc3 25.Bf3 h6 26.Rd1 Qf2 27.Rf1 Qh4 28.Bg2 Re8 Nowroozian,N (2695)-10.Nf3 b5 11.Bd3 (2629) DEN-ch Denmark 1987 (1) 1-0]
14...Bh6 15.Qd3N White is slightly better.
[15.Bh3 Bxh3 16.Rxh3 Ne7 17.Rh1 0-0 18.Kf1 Rc8 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.b3 Kh8 21.Qd3 f5 22.Rd1 fxe4 23.Qxe4 Qa7 24.f3 a4 25.Kg2 axb3 26.axb3 Qa2 27.Rxd6 Qxb3 28.Rxh6 Svendsen (2586)-10.Nf3 b5 11.Bf6 (2615) 155/9 Wijk aan Zee 2023 (7) ½-½]
15...0-0 16.Nce3 -0.44/13
[16.Bg2= 0.18/11]
16...Nd4N -0.08/12
[Vorgänger: 16...Be6 0.20/10 16...Bxe3 -0.53 17.Bg2 -0.25/10 *(⌓17.Nf5* 0.20/10 *)* 17...Bxe3= 18.Nxe3 a4 19.0-0 Rc8 20.b3 axb3 21.axb3 Nd4 22.Nc2 0.00/13 *(22.f4⩲* 0.53/10 *)* 22...Nxc2 23.Qxc2 Echeguren,M (1903)-Montero,W (2013) Buenos Aires La Porta Cup-B 2017 (4) ½-½]
[16...Bxe3∓ -0.44/13 feels stronger. 17.Nxe3 a4]
17.0-0-0? -1.84/12
[17.Nf5= -0.08/12 and White stays safe.]
17...Bg4-+ 18.Rd2 -2.22/11
[⌓18.f4 -1.70/9 Bxd1 19.Qxd1]
18...Bf3 19.Rg1

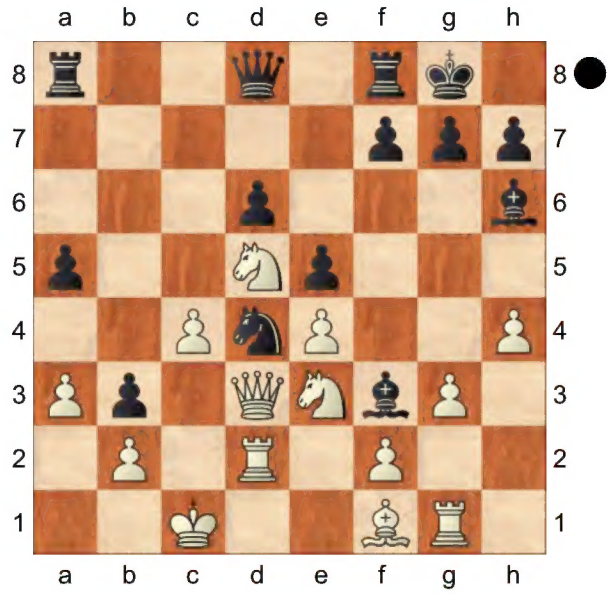


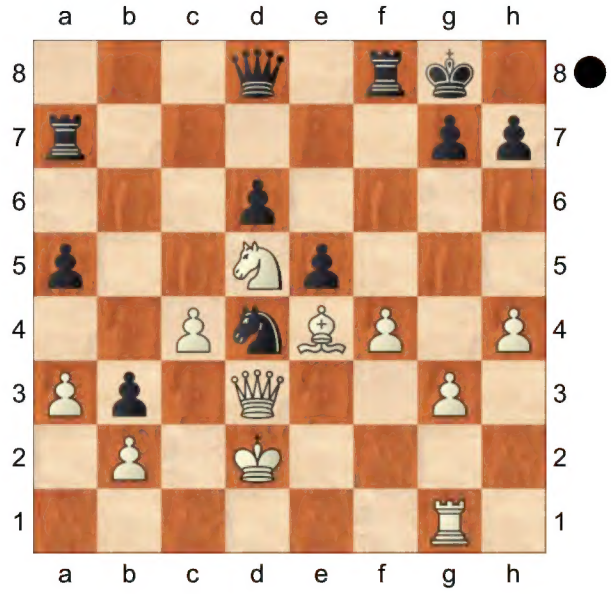
b3! 20.a3

(Diagram)

f5! Deflection **21.exf5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 23.Kxd2 Rxf5** -1.33/10
[23...Nxf5-+ -1.80/11 24.Qe4 Ra7 *(24...Nd4 25.f4∓)*]
24.f4∓ Rf8 25.Bg2 Ra7 26.Be4

(Diagram)





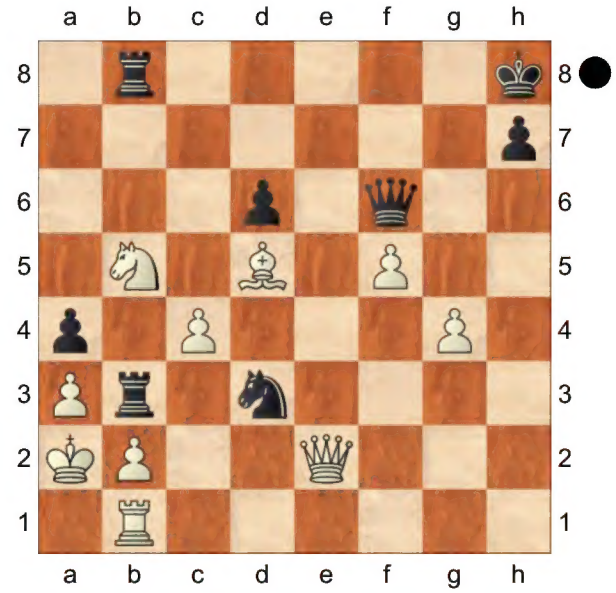
g6 -0.45/9
[26...h6!∓ -1.06/11 27.Qe3 Qc8]
27.Kc1? -2.11/13
[27.h5!∓ -0.45/9]
27...Ne6 -0.70/11
[Black should play 27...Kh8-+ -2.11/13 28.Kb1 Qc8]
28.Qxb3∓ Nc5 29.Qc2 -1.36/8
[⌓29.Qf3 -0.74/9]
29...Rb7 And now ...exf4 would win.
30.Kb1 -1.55/11
[30.h5? gxh5 31.Rh1 Qe8-+]
[White should try 30.Rh1 -1.14/12]
30...Rb3 -0.17/9
[30...exf4∓ -1.55/11 Strongly threatening ...f3. 31.gxf4 Qxh4]
31.Ka2 -0.96/12
[31.h5!= -0.17/9]
31...Qd7∓ 32.h5 Qg7 -0.33/17
[32...gxh5∓ -0.96/8 Hoping for ...Kh8. 33.Qh2 Rxb2+ 34.Qxb2 Nxe4]
33.Nc3 -1.02/9
[33.hxg6 Rfb8 34.Rg2 *(34.gxh7+? Kh8-+)* 34...hxg6-+ *(34...Rxb2+? 35.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 36.Rxb2-+)*]
[Better is 33.h6!∓ -0.33/17 Qf7 *(33...Qxh6 34.Ne7+ Kf7 35.Rh1±)* 34.fxe5 dxe5 35.g4]
33...Rfb8↑ White is under strong pressure.
[33...exf4?! 34.gxf4 Qd4 *(34...Rxf4? 35.Bd5+ Kh8 36.hxg6+-)* 35.Rd1=]
34.Bd5+ -2.03/18
[34.Nb5∓ -0.88/10 might work better. a4 *(34...gxh5 35.fxe5 a4 36.Bd5+ Kh8 37.exd6-+)* 35.hxg6 *(35.fxe5? Qxe5 36.Bd5+ Kg7-+)* 35...Nxe4 36.Qxe4 exf4 37.Rg2 fxg3 38.Qd5+ Kh8 39.Qxd6]
34...Kh8-+ ...Rxb2+ would now be deadly. **35.Nb5 a4 36.hxg6** aiming for f5. **36...Nd3**
[36...Qxg6 37.f5 Qf6 38.Qh2 Qxf5 39.Ka1]
37.Rb1 Qxg6
[37...exf4 38.Be4 Ne5 39.gxf4 *(39.Nxd6 f3∓; 39.Rh1? h6-+)* 39...Nxc4 40.Qxc4=]
38.Qd2 -3.95/23 Inhibits Nb4+.
[⌓38.Qg2 -2.76/23]
38...e4 ...e3 is the strong threat.
[38...Qxg3 39.f5-+]
39.g4? -6.16/19
[39.Qg2 -3.19/17 e3 40.Be4]
39...e3
[Weaker is 39...Qxg4 40.Bxe4 Qxf4

41.Qxf4 Nxf4 42.Bc2∓]

40.Qh2 e2 41.f5 Qf6

[41...e1Q? 42.fxg6 Rxb2+ 43.Qxb2+ Nxb2 44.Rxe1+-]

42.Qxe2



Rxb2+! Deflection **43.Qxb2**

[43.Rxb2 Nc1+]

43...Nxb2 44.Rxb2 Re8 -1.76/20

[⌓44...Qe5 -4.28/13 45.Be6 Kg7]

45.Nc7? -4.05/20

[45.g5 -1.76/20 was the only chance. Qxg5 *(45...Qxf5 46.Nxd6 Qf8 47.Nxe8∓)* 46.Nxd6]

45...Rc8 46.Ne6 Qc3? 0.00/37

[46...Rg8-+ -3.86/23 47.Nc7 Rf8 *(47...Rxg4?* is the wrong capture. *48.Rb8+ Kg7 49.Ne8+* Deflection, Double Attack *Kh6 50.Nxf6+-)*]

47.g5= Kg8 48.f6 Kf7 49.Nf4+ Kf8? 5.39/33

[49...Ke8= 0.00/17]

50.Ne6+? 0.00/38

[Only move: 50.g6+- 5.39/33 White threatens g7+ and mate. Qxf6 51.g7+ Decoy Kxg7 52.Nh5+ Kg6 53.Nxf6 Kxf6 54.Rb4]

50...Ke8 The position is equal. **51.Ng7+ Kd8 52.Ne6+ Ke8 53.Ng7+ Kf8 54.Ne6+ Ke8 55.Ng7+ Kf8 56.Ne6+ Ke8 57.Ng7+ Kf8 58.Ne6+ Ke8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.49.

Loses game: White=2 Black=1

Missed win: White=1 Black=1

Mistake: White=10 Black=7

Inaccurate: White=2 Black=1

OK: White=11 Black=17

Best: White=3 Black=5

½-½

B33

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2744**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

Zagreb Superbet Rapid (2) 10.07.2024

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

Inf 87/(123) **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 Be7**

(Diagram)

10.c5!

[10.Bd3 a6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 f5 13.f3 Nd7 14.Kh1 Bg5 15.b4 a5 16.a3 axb4 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 Qe3 20.Be2 b5 21.Qc1 Qxc1 22.Rxc1 bxc4 23.Nb5 Bb7 24.Nxd6 Bxd5 Leko,P (2736)-Kramnik,V (2809) (blindfold) Monaco 2003]

10...0-0 11.Bd3 Bd7N

[11...Na6 12.cxd6 Bxd6 13.0-0 Nb4 14.Bb1 Qd7 15.Nc3 f5 16.a3 Na6 17.Qh5 b5 18.Be3 Nc7 19.Bc2 a5 20.Rfd1 Rf6 21.Rac1 Rg6 22.Kh1 Qf7 23.Bb6 Bd7 24.Bxc7 Bxc7 25.Nxb5 Bxb5 26.Bxf5 Hofer,R-Percze,J Correspondence 2007 0-1]

12.Nxd6 -0.17/18

[12.cxd6 0.30/22 is superior. Bxb5 13.dxe7 *(13.Bxb5 Bxd6 14.0-0 Nd7=)* 13...Qxe7 14.d6 *(14.Bxb5 Qb4+ 15.Bd2 Qxb5∓)*]

12...Qa5+= 13.b4 Qxb4+ 14.Qd2! Qxc5 15.Nxb7 Qd4 ...Bb4! is the strong threat. **16.Bb2 Qb6** Strongly threatening ...e4. **17.Na5** -0.66/21

[17.Rb1!= 0.00/21 Qxb7 18.Bxe5 *(18.Ba3 Qxb1+ 19.Bxb1 Bxa3∓)*]

17...Bb5 -0.22/22

[17...e4!∓ -0.66/21 18.Nc4 *(18.Bxe4?* perishes. *Bb4-+* Pin, Double Attack *)* 18...Qb5]

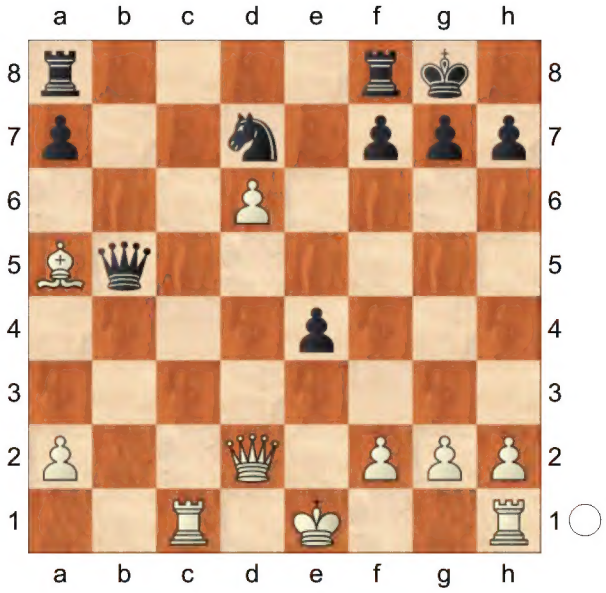
18.Bc3! Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Bb4 20.Qd2! Bxa5 21.Bxa5 Qb5 22.Rc1 Dodges Rc8 **22...Nd7↑** aiming for ... Rac8. Black fights for an advantage.

23.d6 -0.35/23

[23.a4= 0.08/24 Qxa4 24.0-0]

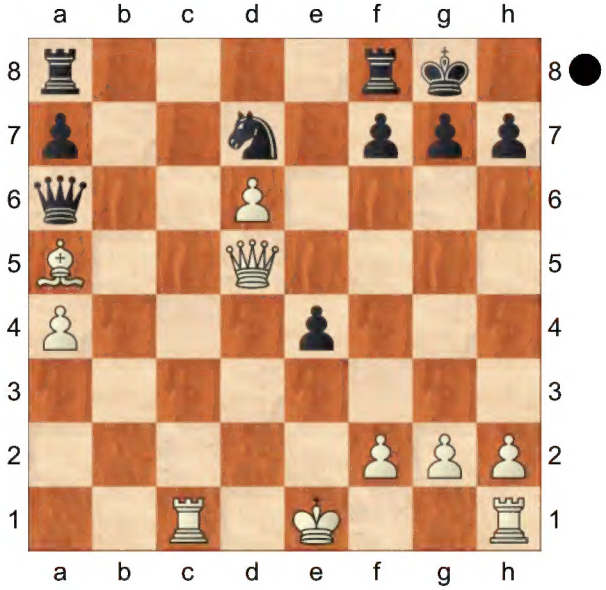
23...e4 0.15/21

[23...Rac8∓ -0.35/23 24.Bc7 Nc5]



24.a4! Qa6 25.Qd5 -1.06/23

[25.Bc7!= 0.19/20]



Against Ne5 **25...Rab8!∓** And now ...Nf6 would win. **26.Bd2 Rfc8** Dodges Qc6

[Much weaker is 26...Qxa4?! 27.0-0=]

27.Rxc8+ Rxc8 28.Qxe4 Qxd6 -0.82/18

[Black should try 28...Rb8 -1.45/21 White must now prevent ...Nc5! 29.Be3 Nf6]

29.Be3 -2.96/22

[29.Qe3∓ -0.82/18]

29...Qa6? -0.23/25

[Better is 29...Nf6-+ -2.96/22 30.Qf5 Qb4+ 31.Ke2 Qc4+ 32.Kf3 Qc6+ 33.Kg3 g6]

30.Qd5 Nb6 31.Qb5 Qxa4 32.Qxa4 Nxa4= Endgame. KRB-KRN **33.Kd2 Nb6** Black wants to play ...Nc4+. **34.Kd3 Kf8 35.Ra1** The position is equal. **35...Rd8+ 36.Ke4 Rd7 37.g4 f6 38.h4 Kf7 39.h5 Nc8 40.Bc5 Rc7 41.Be3 Rd7 42.Bc5 Rc7 43.Be3 Re7+ 44.Kf3 Ke6 45.Ra6+ Kf7 46.Rc6 Nb6** Deflection **47.Bxb6 axb6 48.Rxb6** KR-KR **48...h6 49.Kf4 Rc7 50.Rb5 Rd7 51.Kf5 Rc7 52.f4 Ra7 53.Rc5 Rb7 54.Ra5 Rc7 55.Rb5 Ra7 56.Rd5 Rb7 57.Rc5 Ra7 58.Rd5 Rb7 59.Rc5 Ra7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise) .

Loses game:	White=1	---
Missed win:	---	
Black=1		
Mistake:	White=4	
Black=3		
Inaccurate:	---	
Black=1		
OK:	White=29	
Black=22		
Best:	White=1	
Black=1		
Strong:	White=1	
Black=1		

½-½

B33

□ **Sjugirov,Sanan 2691**

■ **Caruana,Fabiano 2805**

Titled Tuesday intern op 21st May Late blitz (10) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.Be2 0-0 14.0-0 Bg5 15.Bg4

[15.Qd3 Be6 16.Rad1 Kh8 17.Bf3 g6 18.b3 Ra7 19.Qe2 Rd7 20.Rd3 Nb8 21.a3 bxa3 22.Nxa3 Na6 23.Rdd1 Nc5 24.Qc2 f5 25.Nb5 Bh6 26.Ndc3 Qb6 27.exf5 Bxf5 28.Qe2 Nxb3 29.Na4 Qb8 4.h3 Bg7 5.Nf3 de4 6.Ne (2682)-Chigogidze,K (2706) 29/452 Reykjavik 1980 (9.5) 0-1]

15...Be6 The position is equal. **16.h3N**

[16.b3 Rb8 17.a3 *(17.Nde3 Qd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.c5 Bxe3 20.Nxe3 Nd4 21.cxd6 Qxd6* Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines # *)* 17...bxa3 18.Rxa3 Qd7 19.h3 Bd8 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines #]

16...g6 17.b3 Bh6 18.Qd3 -0.25/20

[⌓18.a3 0.11/21]

18...Bg7 0.24/21

[⌓18...Bxd5 -0.25/20 19.cxd5 Nb8]

19.Rad1 -0.21/22

[⌓19.a3 0.24/21]

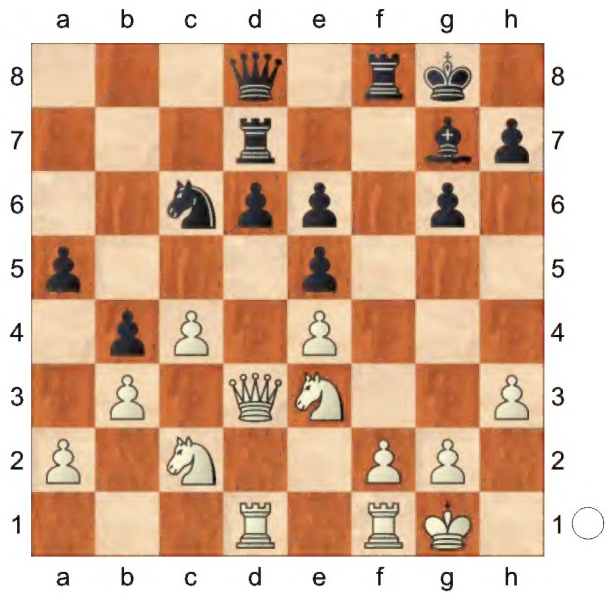
19...Ra7 0.57/21

[19...Bxd5= -0.21/22 20.Qxd5 Nd4 21.Nxd4 exd4]

20.Nde3!± Excellent horsemanship.

20...Rd7 21.Bxe6 fxe6

(Diagram)



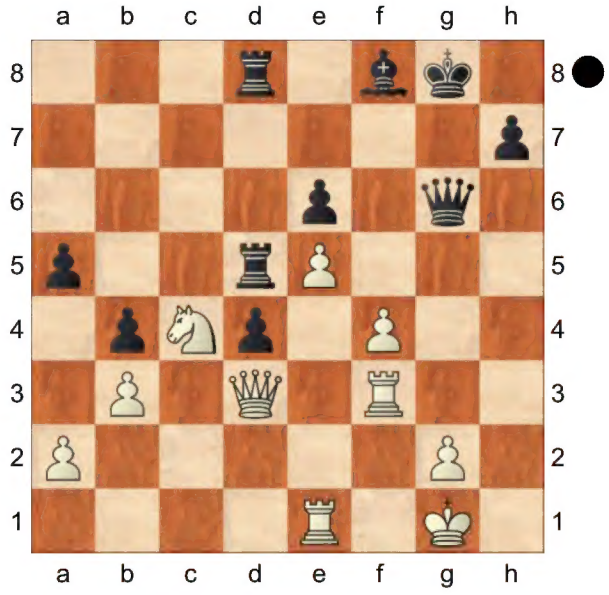
22.c5! Nd4 23.cxd6 Rxd6 24.Nxd4 exd4 25.Nc4 Rd7 26.e5 Rd5 27.Rde1 Qc7 28.f4 Rfd8 29.h4 Bf8 30.h5 Qf7 1.53/20

[30...gxh5± 0.66/23 31.f5 Qf7]

31.hxg6± White is more active.

31...Qxg6 32.Rf3

[32.f5 exf5 33.Rxf5 R5d7=]



Black must now prevent Rg3. **32...Qxd3** 2.10/16

[32...Kh8± 1.47/17 33.Rh3 Qf7]

33.Rxd3+- h5 34.Kf2 Kf7 3.37/22

[34...R5d7 1.95/22 was called for. 35.Rh1 *(35.Nxa5 Ra8±)* 35...Rh7 36.Nxa5 Ra8]

35.Kf3 Be7 36.Rh1 h4 37.g3 hxg3 38.Rh7+

[Don't do 38.Kxg3?! Rg8+ 39.Kf3 Bf8±]

38...Ke8 39.Kxg3 Rb8 40.Kf3

[40.Rh8+ Bf8 41.Kf3 Kf7+-]

40...Kd7 5.05/21

[⌓40...Bf8 3.51/21 41.Ke4 Rbb5]

41.Ke4 Rb7 42.Rg3 Hoping for Rgg7.

42...Kc6 43.Rh6 d3 44.Rxe6+ Kc5 45.Rxd3

[Weaker is 45.Nxa5 Rd4+ 46.Ke3 Rbd7+-]

45...Rxd3 46.Kxd3 Endgame. KRB-KRN **46...Rd7+ 47.Ke4 a4 48.Nd6 axb3 49.axb3 Ra7 50.f5 Bh4 51.f6 Ra1 52.Nb7+ Kb5 53.f7 Rf1 54.Nd6+ Kc5 55.Nf5 Bg5 56.f8Q+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.41.

Mistake:	White=2	
Black=6		
Inaccurate:	White=2	
Black=2		
OK:	White=17	
Black=7		
Best:	White=3	
Black=2		
Strong:	White=1	---

1-0

B33

□ **Sevian,Samuel** **2699**

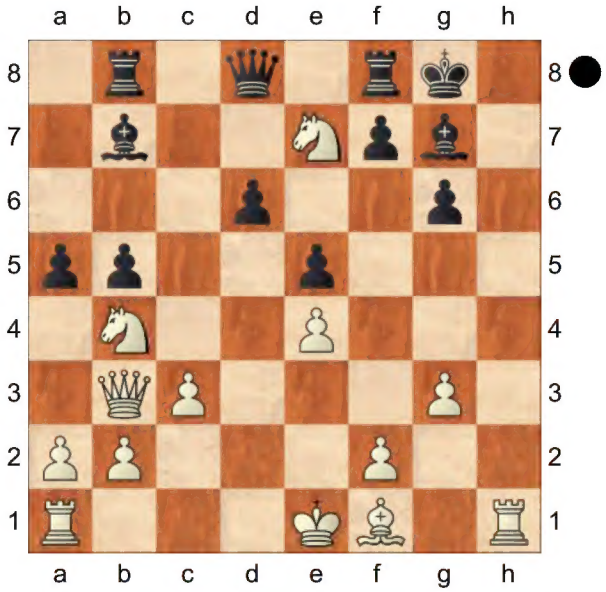
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2805**

Chess.com Classic Play In rapid (6)

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

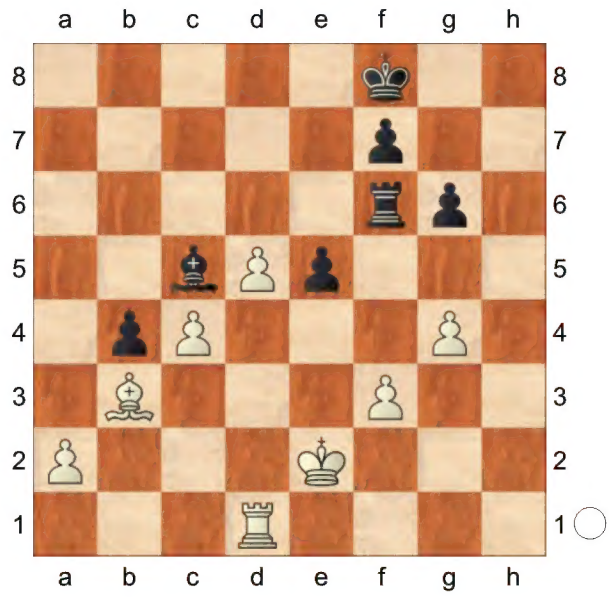
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.h4 g6 now supersedes 13...Be7. löst 13...Le7 inzwischen ab. **14.g3 Bg7 15.h5 Ne7**
[15...Be6 16.Bh3 Qd7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Bg2 b4 19.Ndxb4 Nxb4 20.Nxb4 a5 21.Nd3 Rfc8 22.Qc2 f5 23.0-0 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Bf7 25.Rfe1 d5 26.Bg2 e4 27.Nf4 Qb5 28.Bh3 Rc5 29.Rab1 Qc6 30.Qd2 5.f4 h5 6.♗e3 ♘h6 (2517)-8.♕f3 ♘c6 9.e3 h6 (2561) Odessa (m/2-rapid) 109/198 2010 ½-½]
16.Ncb4N h6 would now be deadly. A dynamic duo of knights. White is slightly better.
[16.Nce3 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bb7 Quickstarter Guide-Quickstarter Guide #09 - Sves,1 18.Qd3 *(18.Be2 Bf6 19.Qd3 Bg5 20.Rd1 Rc8 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Kf1 Rc5 23.Ne3 Kg7 24.Bf3 Qb6 25.Qxd6 Qxd6 26.Rxd6 Bxe3 27.fxe3 b4 28.cxb4 Rc2 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3)* 18...Bf6 19.Bg2 Bg5 20.0-0 Rc8 21.f4 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 Qb6+ 23.Kh2 Rc5 24.Qd3 exf4 25.gxf4 Bh6 26.f5 Bg7 27.Bh3 Be5+ 28.Kh1 g5 29.f6 h6 30.Rf5 Kh8 31.Rg1 Rg8 32.Rg2 Qc6 Oksendal,M (2060)-Lye,S (2212) Fagernes op-A 2023 (3) 0-1]
16...Bb7 17.hxg6 -0.15/21
[17.Qd2± 0.32/21 should be considered.]
17...hxg6 18.Qb3N
[Vorgänger: 18.Be2 Rc8 19.a4 a5 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 Rc5 23.Qd3 bxa4 24.Rxa4 Perez Ponsa,F (2538)-Lupulescu,C (2589) Chessable Masters Play In rapid 2024 (2) ½-½]
[18.Bh3 simplifies a5 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Nd5]
18...a5 19.Nxe7+



Remove Defender **19...Qxe7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Qxd5 Rfc8** Black is weak on the light squares **22.Rd1**
[22.Bxb5? too greedy. Rc5 23.Qd2 Rcxb5-+ *(23...Rbxb5? 24.b3-+)*]
22...Rc5⇄ Black puts up resistance **23.Qxd6 Qxd6 24.Rxd6 b4 25.c4 Bf8 26.Rd7** -0.27/22
[26.Ra6 0.22/23 feels stronger.]
26...Rcc8 0.14/21
[⌓26...b3 -0.27/22 27.a3 Rc6]
27.b3= Rd8 28.Rd5 Ra8 29.Bd3 a4 30.Bc2 Rxd5 31.exd5 axb3 32.Bxb3 Endgame. KRB-KRB **32...Bc5 33.Ke2 Kg7 34.g4 Ra6 35.f3 Rf6 36.Rd1 Kf8** 0.65/24
[36...Kh6= 0.07/26]

(Diagram)

37.d6 0.04/23 **Rxd6** The position is equal. **38.Rxd6 Bxd6 39.Kd3 f5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very



precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=3
Black=2
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=6
Black=13
Best: White=2
Black=1
½-½

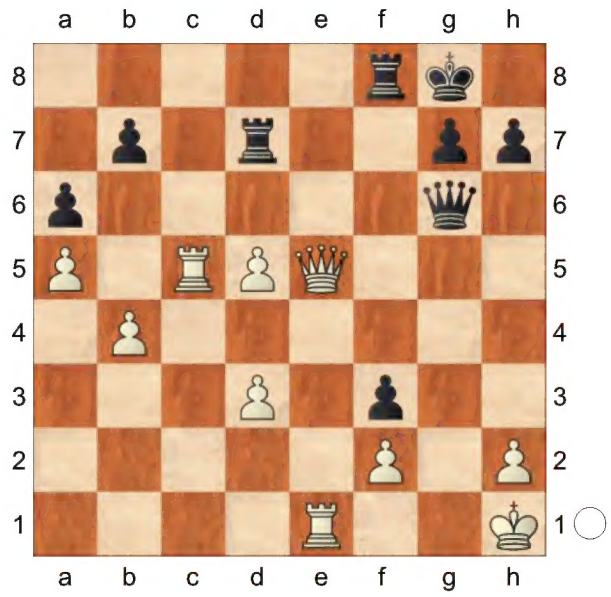
B33

□ **Paravyan,David** **2608**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2778**
CrunchLab Masters Div 3 W rapid (3.3)
[MH]

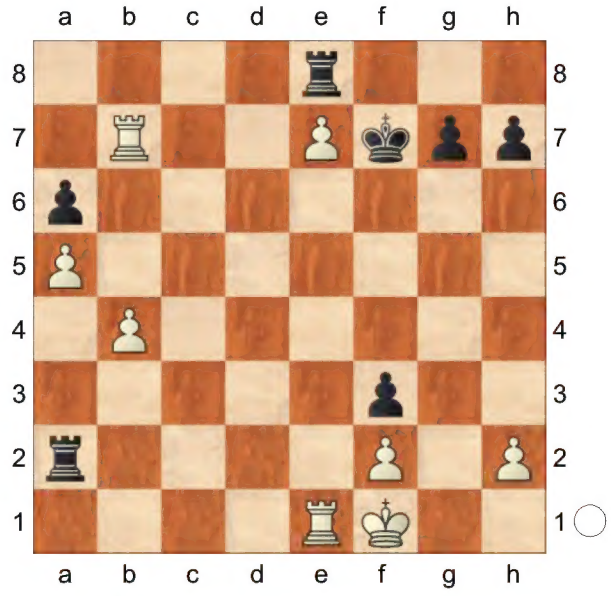
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.b4!? 0.04/14
Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.
[12.f4± 0.40/11 might be stronger.]
12...Nd7 0.40/10
[12...a6= 0.04/14 13.Na3 Bd7]
13.a5± White is slightly better. **13...a6** Repels c4 **14.Na3 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5N**
[15...f4]
16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Bb2 f4N
[Vorgänger: 17...Bd6 18.c4 Qg5 19.Qc2 c5 is the strong threat. f4! Strongly threatening ...f3. 20.Qxe4 Hoping for c5. Bf5! 21.Qf3 c5 would now be deadly. e4! 22.Qh5 Qxh5 23.Bxh5 Threatens to win with c5. Bxb4 24.Rfd1 Rac8 25.Be2 g5 26.h3 Rf7 27.Bd4 Bd6 28.Rac1 Black must now prevent c5. Bc5 Cornel,M (2358)-Koch,C (2352) ST-2022-0-00217 ½-½]
18.Bxe5 f3! 19.gxf3
[19.Bc4 is more complex. fxg2 20.Re1 Bh4 21.d6+]
19...Bf6! 20.Qd4 -0.22/14
[20.Bxf6± 1.02/11 Rxf6 21.fxe4]
20...exf3 0.17/11
[20...Bh3! -0.22/14 deserves consideration. 21.f4 Bxe5 22.Qxe5 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 Qd7]
21.Bd3= Bxe5! 22.Qxe5 Bf5 0.96/10
[22...Qh4!= 0.27/11]
23.Kh1 0.34/11
[23.Bxf5 Qg5+ 24.Qg3 Qxf5= *(24...Qxg3+ 25.hxg3 Rxf5 26.Rad1+-)*]
[23.Rad1± 0.96/10]
23...Bxd3± 24.cxd3 Qf6 25.Rfe1 Rad8 26.Rac1↑ White has good play. **26...Rd7 27.Rc5 Qg6**
[27...Qh4 28.Rc8 Rxc8 29.Qe6+ Rf7 30.Qxc8+ Rf8 31.Re8± *(31.Qxb7 Qxf2 32.Rg1 g6=)*]

(Diagram)

28.Qe6+ Qxe6 29.dxe6



[Don't do 29.Rxe6 Rf4]
29...Rxd3± Endgame. KRR-KRR
30.Rc7 Re8 31.e7 White has more active pieces.
[31.Rxb7 Rxe6 32.Rg1 Kf8=]
[31.h3 simplifies Rd6 32.Rxb7 Rdxe6 33.Rxe6 Rxe6 34.Rb6]
31...Rd2 32.Kg1 Re2 33.Kf1 Kf7
34.Rxb7
[But not 34.Rxe2 fxe2+ 35.Kxe2 Rxe7+ 36.Rxe7+ Kxe7=]
34...Ra2



35.h4 0.08/11
[35.h3!± 1.16/16]
35...h6 0.55/17
[35...h5!= 0.08/11]
36.h5 g5? 5.58/12 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[36...Rb2± 0.56/15 37.b5 axb5]
37.hxg6++- Kxg6 38.Rb6+ Skewer, Double Attack **38...Kf7**
39.Rxh6 Re2 40.Rxe2
[40.Rxa6 leads to mate. Rh8 41.e8Q+ Rexe8 42.Ra7+ Kg6 43.Ra6+ Kg5]
40...fxe2+ 41.Kxe2 Rxe7+ 42.Kd3 Rb7 43.Rh7+ Skewer.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.57.
Loses game: ---
Black=1
Mistake: White=4
Black=4
Inaccurate: ---
Black=3
OK: White=13
Black=8
Best: White=4
Black=3
Strong: ---
Black=2
1-0

B33
□ **Gledura,Benjamin** **2619**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2805**
Chess.com Classic Play In rapid (2)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Bf5N

[11...Nd7 12.Bd2 *(12.Kh1 f5 13.f4 a6 14.Na3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Qd2 Bd7 17.Qb4 Rb8 18.c4 a5 19.Qb3 Ng6 20.Be3 b6 21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.axb5 Bg5 23.Bg1 Ne5 24.Qa3 Bd2 25.Rad1 Bb4 26.Qh3 Qg5* Chapter-Games 17. Chapter 7 *)* 12...f5 13.a5 a6 14.Na3 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3 g5 19.c4 f4 20.Bc3 Bf5 21.c5 Nxf3+ 22.Qxf3 dxc5 23.Rad1 8..Nb8 9.a4!? theory-N,N 2020 Bd6 24.h3 Qe8 25.Nc4 Qg6 26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.h4 gxh4 28.Qxf4 Qxf4 29.Rxf4 h5 30.Re1 Bg4 31.Rf6 Rxf6 32.Bxf6 Kf7 33.Bxh4 Re8 34.Rf1+ Kg8 35.Rf6 Re2 36.Rg6+ Kf8 37.d6 Rd2 38.Rg5 Purgimon,J-Markus,R USSR 8/195 1969]

[11...f5 12.b4 a6 13.Na3 f4 14.a5 Bf5 15.c4 Nd7 16.Nb1 Bf6 17.Bg4 Bxg4 18.Qxg4 e4 19.Ra3 Be5 20.Nd2 Nf6 21.Qe2 f3 22.gxf3 Nh5 23.Nxe4 Qh4 24.Ng3 Rae8 25.Rd1 Bf4 26.Be3 Abdusattorov,N (2688)-Gukesh,D (2684) 153/59 Biel 2022 0-1]

12.Bd2 Nd7 13.a5 White is slightly better. **13...a6 14.Na3 Bg6 15.Nc4 Rc8 16.c3** 0.04/21

[16.Be3± 0.41/21 is more appropriate.]

16...f5= 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 Nc5 19.Kh1 Ne4 20.Bd3 Bg5 21.Qc1 h6 22.Nb6 Rc7 23.Bxg5 Nxg5 24.Qf4 Re7 25.Rae1 Rf6 1.06/22

[25...Rxe1± 0.69/22 26.Rxe1 Ne4]

26.Nc4 0.33/20

[26.Rxe7± 1.06/22 Qxe7 27.c4]

26...Ne4± 27.Qh4 -0.48/21

[27.Kg1= 0.28/21]

27...Qc7∓

[27...f4 is interesting. 28.Kg1 Nd2 29.Bxg6 Nxc4 30.Re6 Rexe6 31.dxe6 Ne5]

28.Nb6 -1.24/23

[28.Re2∓ -0.59/22]

28...Ref7? 0.57/20

[28...f4!∓ -1.24/23 And now ...Re5 would win. 29.Re2 *(29.Rxf4? Rxf4 30.Qxf4 Rf7-+)* 29...Nf2+ 30.Qxf2 *(30.Rfxf2? Bxd3 31.Re6 g5-+)* 30...Bxd3 31.Rxe7 Qxe7]

29.h3!± Qe7 30.Nc4 0.07/23

[30.Kg1± 0.63/22]

30...Qc7 0.53/22

[30...f4= 0.07/23 31.Kh2 *(31.Nd2 Ng3+ 32.Kh2 Nxf1+ 33.Bxf1 Qc7-+)* 31...Qc7]

31.Nb6! Qd8 32.Nc4 0.00/19

[Better is 32.Bxe4± 0.63/19 fxe4 33.Rxf6 Rxf6 34.Qg3]

32...Rf8 0.65/20

[32...Qc7= 0.00/19]

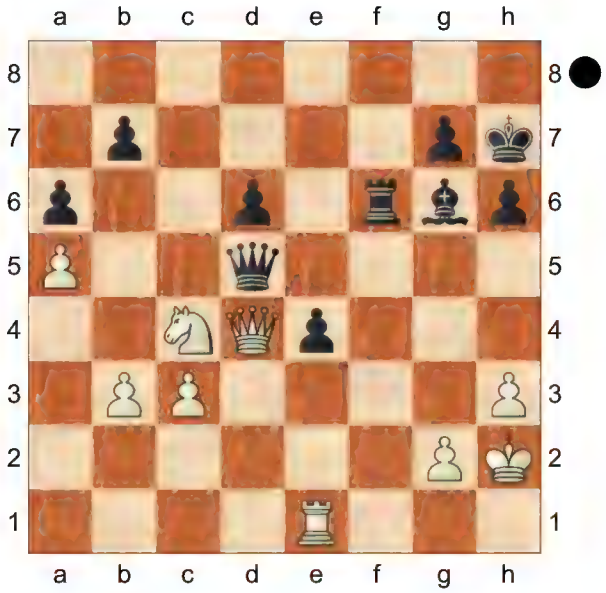
33.Bxe4 fxe4 34.Rxf6 Rxf6 35.Qg3! Qc7 36.b3 0.01/27

[36.Nb6!± 0.63/23]

36...Kh7 37.Qe3 Qf7 38.Kh2 -1.07/23

[38.Nb6= 0.00/29 remains equal.]

38...Qxd5∓ 39.Qd4



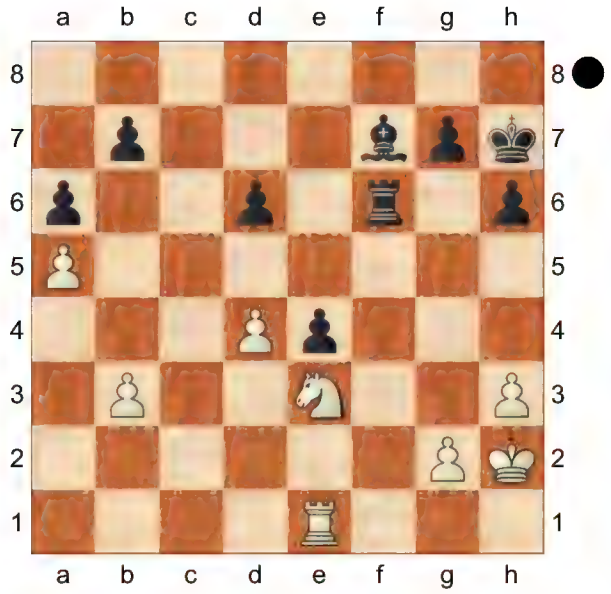
Qxd4 -0.40/19

[39...Qg5!∓ -1.40/22 aiming for ...d5. 40.Rd1 Re6]

40.cxd4 Endgame. KRB-KRN **40...Bf7**

41.Ne3 -1.34/23

[41.Rc1= -0.27/24]



41...Rf2!

[41...Bxb3?! 42.Rb1 Ba4 43.Rxb7=]

42.Rc1 -1.46/25

[White should play 42.Kg3 -1.10/23 Rd2 43.Rc1]

42...Re2 -1.04/21 Black is more active.

[Don't play 42...Bxb3 43.Kg3 Rd2 44.Rc7∓]

[⌓42...Kg6 -1.46/25 ...Rd2! would now be deadly. 43.Rc7 Re2 *(43...Bxb3 44.Rxb7 Bf7 45.Rd7±)*]

43.Nf5 Be6 44.Nxd6 e3 45.Rc5 Repels Bd5 **45...Rd2 46.Re5** -1.22/25

[46.Nc4!∓ -0.38/24]

46...Bxb3 Threatens to win with ...e2.

47.Nxb7? -3.86/22

[47.Rxe3∓ -0.74/21 was the crucial defense. Bd5 *(47...Rxd4 48.Nxb7 Bc4 49.Rc3=)* 48.Rg3]

47...e2-+

[47...Rxd4 48.Rxe3 Bd5 49.Nc5=]

48.Kg3 Bc4

[48...Rxd4 49.Rxe2 Rd5 50.Re7∓]

49.Nd6 Bd3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.20 (precise) .

Loses game: White=1 ---

Mistake: White=11

Black=6

OK: White=14

Black=14

Best: White=2

Black=4

Strong: White=1

Black=1

[Stronger than 49...Rxd4 50.Nxc4 Rxc4 51.Kf2∓]

0-1

B33

□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2731**

■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**

Wch Blitz Samarkand (13) 30.12.2023

[MK]

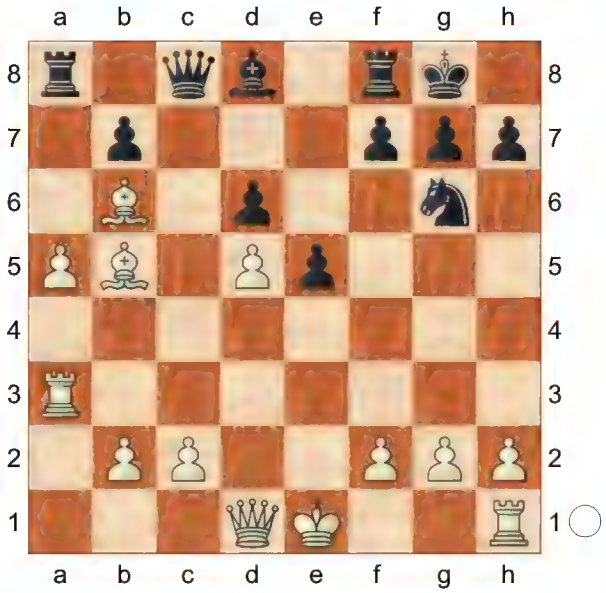
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.a4N

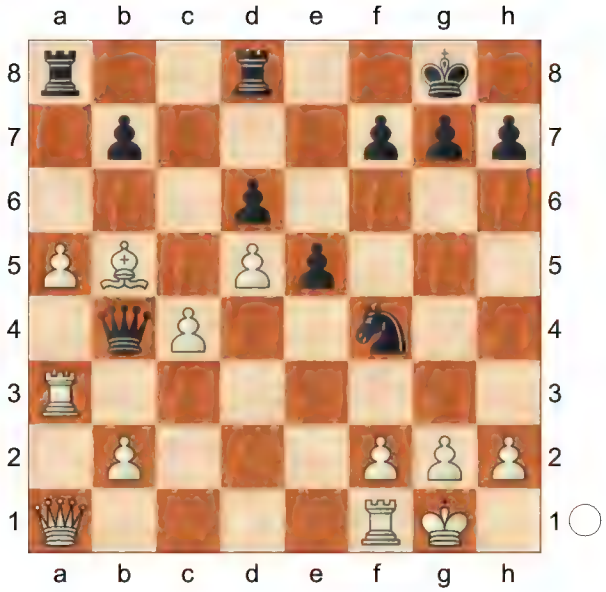
[9.c4 Ng6 *(9...Nf5 10.Bd3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Kh1 a6 13.Nc3 Nd4 14.f4 f5 15.Be3 Bf6 16.Bxd4 exd4 17.Ne2 Re8 18.Re1 Bd7 19.Ng3 g6 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Qd2 Qd8 22.Re1 Qb6* E 90/04 (1836)-11.Kb1 Qb6 (2002) Leuven (blitz) 133/(94) 2017 (6) ½-½ *)* 10.Be2 *(10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qb4 Qb8 12.h4 h5 13.Be3 a6 14.Nc3 f5 15.0-0-0 Be7 16.g3 0-0 17.Be2 e4 18.Bd4 Bf6 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 20.Qb6 Ne5 21.Kb1 Be8* Van Foreest,J (2612)-Carlsen,M (2835) Tata Steel-A 81st 2019 (5)

0-1) 10...Be7 11.Bd2 0-0 12.0-0 f5 13.Qc2 Bd7 14.a4 a6 15.Nc3 Bg5 16.g3 Rc8 17.b3 e4 18.Bh5 Ne5 19.Qc1 Bxd2 20.Qxd2 Be8 21.Bxe8 Nf3+ Voroblievas,A-9...♘c5 (2490) FRG-ch int Mannheim 1975 (1) 0-1]
[9.c3 Nf5 10.a4 Be7 11.Bd3 0-0 12.0-0 Nh4 13.f4 a6 14.Na3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ng6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Nc4 Qc7 18.b3 Bf5 19.a5 Be4 20.Re1 f5 21.Qd2 Rae8 22.Rad1 Qd8 23.Re2 g5 Italian,5 (2545)-11.Be3 Rg8 (2430) Italy ch-48 corr Asigc 1998 ½-½]

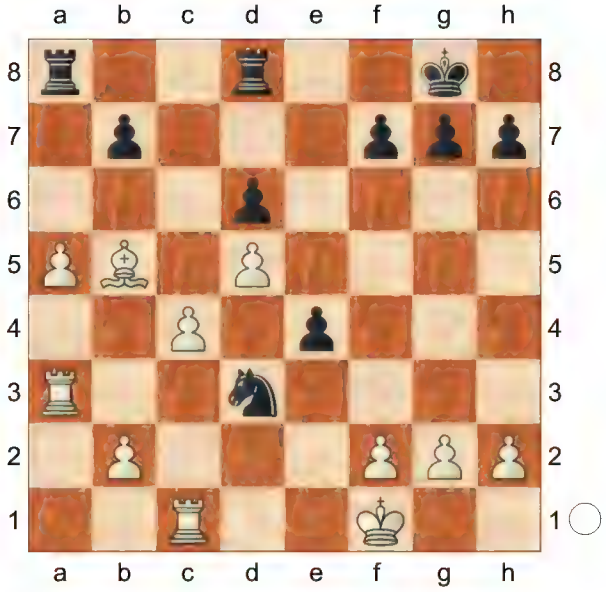
9...Ng6 10.a5 Be7 11.Be3! White is better. **11...0-0 12.Bxa7** White is much more active. The black rooks are passive. **12...Bd7** 1.42/18
[⌓12...Qd7 0.95/18]
13.Bb6± Qc8 14.Ra3 Bxb5 15.Bxb5 Bd8



Black is weak on the light squares
16.Bxd8 Rxd8 1.82/21
[16...Qxd8± 1.46/20 might work better. 17.Qd2 h5]
17.0-0 1.21/19
[17.b4+- 1.82/21]
17...Qc5 18.c4 Qb4 Repels Qd2
19.Qa1 Nf4



20.Re1! Prevents Ne2+. **20...Qd2**
21.Kf1 e4 2.48/21
[21...f5± 1.50/3 22.Qc1 Qd4]
22.Qc1!+-
[22.Rxe4 Rxa5 23.Qe1 *(23.Rxa5 Qd3+ 24.Kg1 Qxe4∓)* 23...Qxe1+ 24.Kxe1 *(24.Rxe1 Rxa3 25.bxa3 Nd3±)* 24...Rxa3 25.bxa3 Nd3+ 26.Ke2 Nc5±]
22...Qxc1 23.Rxc1 Nd3



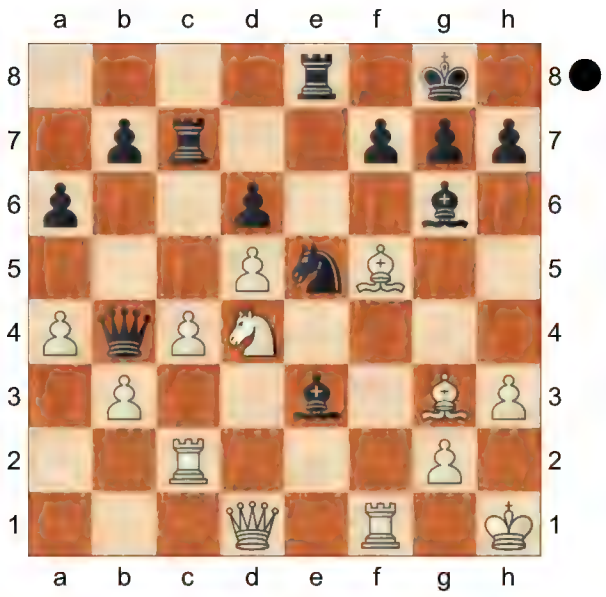
24.Rxd3 exd3 Endgame. KRR-KRB
25.b4 Rac8 26.Rd1 Rc7 27.Rxd3 Re7

28.Re3 Wards off f5 **28...Kf8 29.Ke2 f5** 2.17/18
[⌓29...Ra8 1.72/11 30.Kd3 Rxe3+ 31.fxe3 Ke7]
30.Kd3 Rxe3+ 31.fxe3 KR-KB
[Not 31.Kxe3 Rc8 32.Kd4 Ke7±]
31...Ke7 32.Kd4 Rf8 33.c5 f4? 7.45/21
[33...Rb8 2.78/9 34.Be2 g6]
34.e4 White is clearly winning. **34...f3 35.gxf3 Rf4 36.a6 bxa6 37.Bxa6 g5 38.b5 g4 39.b6 dxc5+ 40.Kxc5** And now d6+ would win. **40...gxf3 41.d6+ Kd7 42.Bb5+ Ke6 43.Bc4+ Ke5 44.b7 Rf8 45.d7 f2 46.Kc6 Kd4 47.Bf1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.27 (precise) .
Mistake: White=1 Black=5
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=4
OK: White=10 Black=6
Best: White=5 Black=4
Strong: White=2 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Ivic,Velimir** **2596**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2805**
Chess.com Play In Match Div 1 rapid (2.2) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Bf5N
[11...Nd7 12.Bd2 *(12.Kh1 f5 13.f4 a6 14.Na3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Qd2 Bd7 17.Qb4 Rb8 18.c4 a5 19.Qb3 Ng6 20.Be3 b6 21.Nb5 Bxb5 22.axb5 Bg5 23.Bg1 Ne5 24.Qa3 Bd2 25.Rad1 Bb4 26.Qh3 Qg5* Chapter-Games 17. Chapter 7 *)* 12...f5 13.a5 a6 14.Na3 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3 g5 19.c4 f4 20.Bc3 Bf5 21.c5 Nxf3+ 22.Qxf3 dxc5 23.Rad1 8..Nb8 9.a4!? theory-N,N 2020 Bd6 24.h3 Qe8 25.Nc4 Qg6 26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.h4 gxh4 28.Qxf4 Qxf4 29.Rxf4 h5 30.Re1 Bg4 31.Rf6 Rxf6 32.Bxf6 Kf7 33.Bxh4 Re8 34.Rf1+ Kg8 35.Rf6 Re2 36.Rg6+ Kf8 37.d6 Rd2 38.Rg5 Purgimon,J-Markus,R USSR 8/195 1969]
[11...f5 12.b4 a6 13.Na3 f4 14.a5 Bf5 15.c4 Nd7 16.Nb1 Bf6 17.Bg4 Bxg4 18.Qxg4 e4 19.Ra3 Be5 20.Nd2 Nf6 21.Qe2 f3 22.gxf3 Nh5 23.Nxe4 Qh4 24.Ng3 Rae8 25.Rd1 Bf4 26.Be3 Abdusattorov,N (2688)-Gukesh,D (2684) 153/59 Biel 2022 0-1]
12.f4 0.11/12
[12.Be3± 0.53/13]
12...exf4= 13.Bxf4 The position is equal. **13...Bg6! 14.Kh1 a6 15.Nd4 Nd7 16.Bd3 Ne5** -0.05/20
[16...Re8∓ -0.45/11]
17.Bf5 Bf6 18.b3 Re8 19.c4 Qb6 20.Rc1 Re7 21.h3 Rae8 22.Bh2 Qb4 23.Bg3 Bg5 24.Rc2 -0.52/10
[24.Rb1= 0.21/9]
24...Be3∓ 25.Bh4 Rc7 Threatens to win with ...Bxd4. **26.Bg3?** -2.42/11
[26.Be1∓ -0.61/13 Qb6 27.Bxg6 hxg6 28.Rd2 *(28.Bf2 Bxd4* Remove Defender *29.Bxd4 Qxb3∓)*]

(Diagram)



White does not recover from this.
26...Bxd4-+ 27.Qxd4 Bxf5
[Don't play 27...Qxb3 28.Rc3 Qb4 *(28...Qxa4 29.Bxe5 dxe5 30.Qd3-+)* 29.Bxg6 hxg6 30.Rfc1]
28.Rxf5 Qxb3 29.Rb2 -4.92/20
[29.Qc3 -2.49/23 Qxc3 *(29...Qxc4?* is the wrong capture. *30.Bxe5 Qxc3* Remove Defender *31.Rxc3+-)* 30.Rxc3]
29...Qxg3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.07 (flawless) .
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=3
Black=1
OK: White=6
Black=5
Best: ---
Black=5
Strong: ---
Black=1
0-1

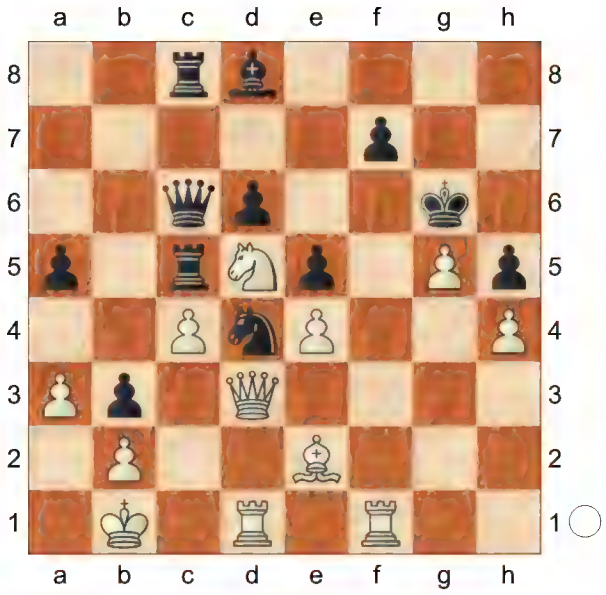
B33
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2771**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2734**
Saint Louis Blitz (11) 18.11.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 13.g3 a5
White has an edge. **14.h4 Rb8N**
[14...Be6 15.Bh3 *(15.Qd2 Rc8 16.Rd1 a4 17.Ncxb4 Nd4 18.Qc3 Qa5 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Nd5 Qxc3+ 21.bxc3 Bxd5 22.exd5 Nc2+ 23.Kd2 Na3 24.h5 Nxc4+ 25.Kc2 Na3+ 26.Kb2 Nc4+* 11...Ne5 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 #1-Campeanu,M corr 34.DFM/V9 2003 *)* 15...a4 16.Bxe6 *(16.b3 axb3 17.axb3 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Na5 20.Qb2 Qb6* Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines *#; 16.Kf1 b3 17.Nce3 Nd4 18.a3 Rc8 19.Rc1 g6* Lesson Sveshnikov The,P-Sveshnikov 9.Nd5 10.Bxf6 11.c *)* 16...fxe6 17.Ndxb4 Nxb4 18.Nxb4 Qb6 19.Qd2 Be7 20.a3 Rf3 Lesson Sveshnikov The,P-Sveshnikov 9.Nd5 10.Bxf6 11.c]
15.Qd3!? Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain. **15...Be6 16.Nce3N**
[Vorgänger: 16.Rd1 -0.27/21 16.b3 0.30 a4 Strongly threatening ... b3. 17.b3 axb3 18.axb3 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nd4 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.Bh3 Wards off Rc8 Qc7 22.0-0 Dobrowolski,A (2321)-Krasenkow,M (2604) Wroclaw Anderssen Memorial op 21st rapid 2012 (7) 0-1]

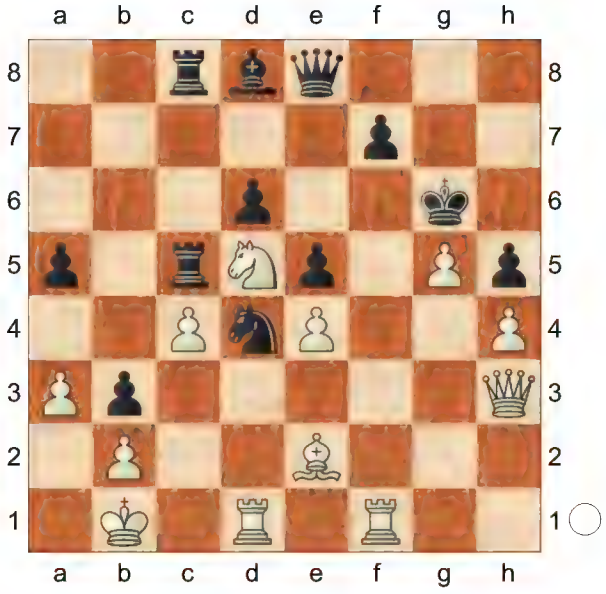
16...Nd4 17.0-0-0 Qd7 18.Kb1 Rfc8 0.60/18
[18...Bd8= -0.03/19]
19.f4± Bd8 20.f5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 White now steadily converts the win.
21...Rc5 22.g4 Kf8 1.95/18
[22...Rxd5± 1.19/20 23.cxd5 *(23.exd5 b3=)* 23...a4]
23.g5+- Qc6 2.36/16
[23...Kg8 1.80/16 keeps fighting. 24.Qg3 Qa4]
24.f6 h5? 4.16/18
[24...Kg8 2.34/17 is a better defense. 25.h5 Qe8]
25.fxg7+ Kxg7 26.Be2 Rhf1 would now be deadly. **26...b3** White must now prevent ...bxa2+. **27.a3** And now Rdf1 would win.
[27.Bxh5? bxa2+ 28.Kxa2 Qa4+ 29.Qa3 *(29.Kb1? Rxc4 30.Rh2 Nb3-+)* 29...Qxc4+ *(29...Qxa3+ 30.bxa3 Rxc4 31.Rc1=; 29...Rxb2+? 30.Kxb2 Qc2+ 31.Ka1-+)* 30.Kb1 Qc2+ 31.Ka1 Qxe4-+]
27...Rc8? 4.00/21
[27...Nxe2 2.33/17 28.Qxe2 Rxc4]
28.Rhf1
[28.Bxh5 Rxc4 29.Rhf1 Rc2 30.Rxf7+ *(30.Bxf7 Ne2±)* 30...Kg8]
28...Kg6 5.46/22
[28...Rxc4 2.61/18 29.Qxc4 *(29.Bxh5 Rc2=)* 29...Qxc4 30.Bxc4 Rxc4]

(Diagram)

29.Qh3! Qe8 8.98/19
[⌓29...Rc7 5.00/19 30.Bxh5+ Kg7 *(30...Kxh5?* is the wrong capture. *31.Rxd4 Rxd5 32.exd5+-)* 31.Bxf7 Rxc4 32.Nxc7 Discovered Attack Qxe4+ 33.Qd3 Qxd3+ 34.Rxd3



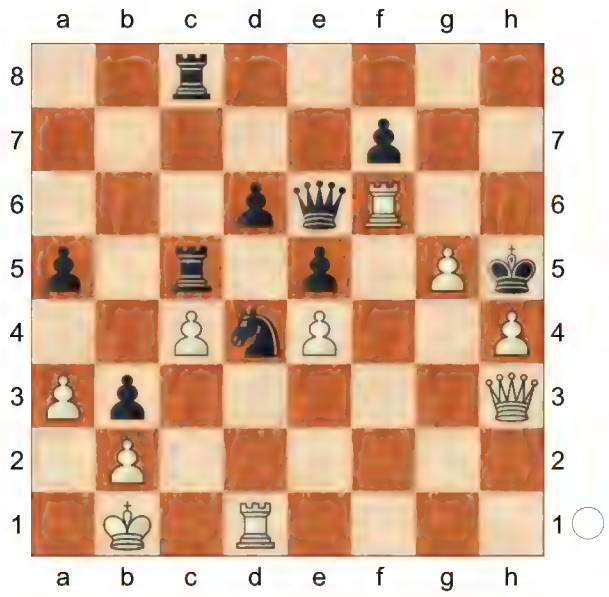
Rxc7 35.Bxb3 a4 36.Bxa4 Be7]
[29...Kg7 30.Bxh5]



30.Bxh5+! Deflection **30...Kxh5**
[30...Kg7 31.Rxf7+]
31.Nf6+ Bxf6 32.Rxf6 White mates.
32...Qe6

(Diagram)

33.Rg1! Rh8 34.Rxe6 fxe6 35.g6 Kh6 36.g7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very



precise) /Black=0.88.
Mistake: ---
Black=7
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=3
OK: White=11
Black=2
Best: ---
Black=2
1-0

B33

□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2739**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2711**
World-chT Rapid (12) 28.08.2023
[MH]

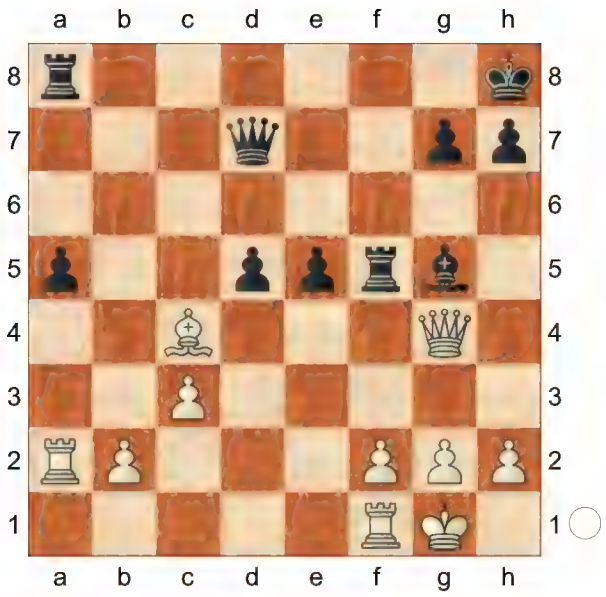
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Inf 80/(147) **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5!** is recently more successful than 7.Bb3. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 7.Lb3. **7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5N 15.Bb5 Ne7 16.Ncb4 Bh3N**

[16...Be6
A) 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bc6 Rab8 *(18...Rac8 19.Rxa5 Rxc6 20.Nxc6 Qb7 21.h4 Qxc6 22.hxg5 Qxe4+ 23.Kf1 Bb3 24.Qc1 f6 25.Rh3 fxg5 26.Kg1 g4 27.Re3 Qf5 28.Qe1 Bc4 29.Ra4 Bd3 30.Qd2 e4 31.Re1 h5 32.Rea1 Rf6 33.c4* Andrae-6.Ba4 b5 7.Bc2 Bb7 10/765 Debrecen 1970 1-0 *)* 19.Rxa5 Qc7 20.Qa4 Rfc8 21.Na6 Bb3 22.Nxc7 Bxa4 23.Rxa4 Rxc7 24.Bd5 Kf8 25.Ra2 Bc1 26.b3 Bg5 27.Rc2 Rbc8 28.Bc4 Ra7 29.Ke2 3.♘f3 e6 4.♕b3 (2477)-Furman,B (2324) Zinnowitz 1966;
B) 17.Nc6 Nxc6 18.Bxc6 Rc8 19.Bb5 Rc5 20.Bd3 Qb8 21.Qc2 f5 22.h4 Bd8 23.c4 g6 24.h5 Bg5 25.Nc3 Qb7 26.Nb5 d5 27.hxg6 dxe4 28.gxh7+ Kh8 29.Be2 Qxb5 6.dc3 ♗e7 7.♗e3 ♘c6 (2322)-Singeisen,H (2177) Magistral Salamanca ESP 2005 (9) 0-1]
[16...Bd7 17.Nxe7+ Bxe7 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.Bxc6 Rb8 20.Ra2 Qb6 21.Bd5 Motylev,A (2532)-Agamaliev,G (2478) Bydgoszcz 1999]
17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Nd5
[18.Nd5!? Qb7□ 19.c4±]
[18.gxh3 aiming for Bc6. axb4 19.Rxb4 Bf4 *(19...Qe6)*]
18...Qb7 The position is equal. **19.Bc4⇄** White has counterplay **19...Bd7** This pair of bishops is nice.
[19...Bxg2? 2.27/23 19...Bd7 -0.06 20.Rg1]
[19...Bxg2? is the wrong capture. 20.Rg1 Bxe4 21.Rxg5+-]
20.Ra2 Kh8 0.47/20
[20...a4]

[20...Rfc8 21.Qd3 Qc6 22.b3 a4]
[20...Rfc8= 0.02/23 21.Qe2 Qc6]
21.0-0 f5 Strongly threatening ...Xf6.
[21...g6 22.f4 0.00/20 *(22.b3±* 0.53/19 *)*]
22.exf5 Vorgänger: **22...Bxf5 23.Ne3 Qd7** 0.80/20
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.16 (very precise) .
Mistake: ---
Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=4
Black=2
[23...Bxe3 24.Bd5! Bxf2+ 25.Rxf2 0.01/20 *(25.Kh1!±* 0.43/27 *Qb5 26.Bxa8)* 25...Qb6= 26.Bxa8 Bb1!]
[23...Qd7 0.82/23 23...Bxe3 0.36 24.Nxf5
A) 24...Qxf5 25.Qxd6 0.33/20 *(25.Qd5±* 0.98/21 *)* 25...e4!± 26.Qd5;
B) ⌓24...Qxf5 0.94/22 25.Qd5 e4;
C) 24...Rxf5 1.48/21 Goncharov,I (2367)-Babasyan,A (2300) EU-ch 2018 sf15 email ½-½ 25.Qg4 0.72/21 *(*White should play *25.b4* 1.48/21 *)* 25...d5±

(Diagram)

26.Rd1! *(26.Bxd5* 0.00/26 26.Rd1 0.87 *Qxd5 27.Qxf5 Qxa2 28.Qxg5 Qxb2 29.Qxe5)*]
[23...Bxe3± 0.40/24 was preferrable. 24.Bd5 *(24.fxe3 Qe4±)* 24...Bxf2+ 25.Kh1 *(25.Rxf2 Qb6=)* 25...Qa6 *(25...Qb6 26.Bxa8 e4 27.b4±)* 26.Bxa8 Bc2 Back Rank]
½-½



B33
□ **Shirov,Alexei** **2655**
■ **Rapport,Richard** **2752**
FIDE Grand Swiss (6) 30.10.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Rb8 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4 Nxb4 15.cxb4 Bd7
White has an edge. **16.Bxa6 0-0 17.0-0 Qe8**
[17...g6 18.Rxa4 Bxa4 19.Qxa4 f5 20.b5 Kh8 21.Qc4 fxe4 22.Qxe4 Qd7 23.g3 Bd8 24.Kg2 Bb6 25.f3 Bd4 26.Rc1 Rxb5 27.Bxb5 Qxb5 28.b4 Vera Siguenas,D (2494)-Elliott, W (2206) (ol) 138/(63) 2018]
18.Nc7N
[Vorgänger: 18.b3 axb3 19.Qxb3 Bd8 20.Bc4 Kh8 21.Ra2 Bc6 22.Rb1 f5 23.exf5 Rxf5 24.Kh1 Qf8 1.03/19 *(24...Bxd5=* 0.14/20

keeps the balance. *25.Bxd5 Bb6)* 25.Qd3 0.37/20 *(25.f3±* 1.03/19 *)* 25...e4≛ 26.Qxe4 Rb5 27.Rd1 0.20/21 *(27.Rd2!±* 0.61/22 *Bxd5 28.Bxd5)* 27...Rxb4= aiming for ... Bxd5. 28.Qe2 Rb8 29.f3 Bg5 30.Qd3 Karjakin,S (2773)-Dubov,D (2666) FIDE World Cup 2017 (2.1) ½-½]

18...Qd8 19.Nd5

[19.Qxd6? too greedy. Be7 20.Qxe5 Rb6-+]

19...Qe8 0.53/17

[19...Bc6= 0.17/20 deserves consideration.]

20.Nc7 0.00/37 now supersedes 20.b3. löst 20.b3 inzwischen ab.

[Better is 20.b3≛ 0.53/17 axb3 21.Qxb3]

20...Qd8!= 21.Nd5!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless) .

Mistake: White=1 Black=1

Inaccurate: White=1 ---

OK: White=3 Black=3

Best: --- Black=1

Strong: White=1 Black=1

[21.Qxd6? loses. Be7 22.Qxe5 Rb6-+]

½-½

B33

□ **Pichot,Alan** **2650**

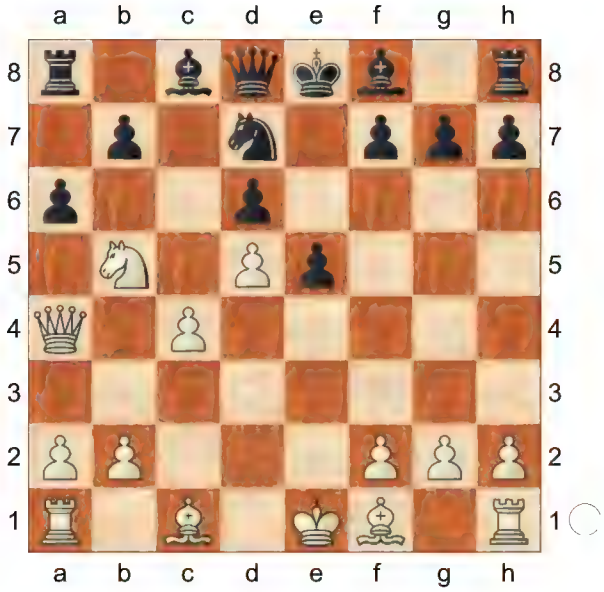
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

FIDE Grand Swiss (3) 27.10.2023

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

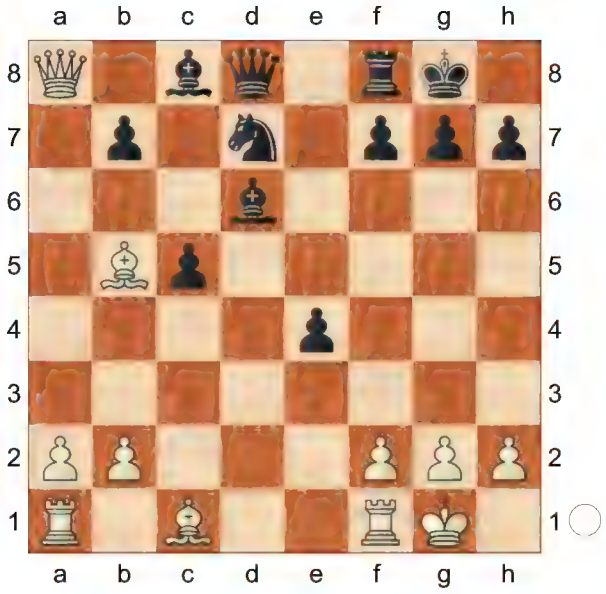
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 a6 10.Qa4 Nd7!



10...Nd7 is better than 10...Bd7. 10...Sd7 ist besser als 10...Ld7. **11.c5! dxc5 12.d6** White is more active. **12...axb5** White is slightly better. **13.Qxa8** Hoping for Be3. **13...Bxd6N** Strongly threatening ...c4.

[13...c4 looks sharper. 14.Bg5 *(14.Qa3 Qb6 15.Be3 Qxd6 16.Qxd6 Bxd6* B 33/16-N,N 2000*; 14.Bd2 Bxd6 15.Qa5 Qxa5 16.Bxa5 Ke7 17.b3 cxb3 18.Bxb5 Nc5 19.Ke2 Bf5 20.Bc3 Rc8 21.Rhc1 bxa2 22.Bb2 Be6 23.Bc4 Nb3 24.Bxb3 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Bxb3 26.f3 f6 27.h3 b6 28.Kd3 Bc5* Pavlovski,T (2170)-Spasov,V (2575) BUL-ch Sofia 1996 (1) 0-1 *)* 14...f6 15.Be3 Bxd6

16.0-0-0 Ke7]
14.Bxb5 0-0 15.0-0 e4



...Ne5 is the strong threat. **16.Qa4 Nf6 17.Be2 Qe7 18.Rd1 Bb8N**
[Vorgänger: 18...Ng4 19.Bxg4 Bxg4 20.Re1! f5 21.Qc4+ Kh8 Threatens to win with ...Qh4. 22.f4! h6 23.Be3 Kh7 24.Rac1 b6 Rashitov,D (2310)-Murin,P (2304) WS MN/150 email 2016 ½-½]
19.Be3 Ng4 20.Bxg4 Bxg4 21.Rd5 Prevents Qe5. **21...b6 22.h3** -0.04/16
[22.Re1!± 0.44/9]
22...Be6 This pair of bishops is nice.
23.Qxe4 f5
[23...Qc7 with more complications. 24.Rdd1 Qh2+ 25.Kf1 Bc8]
24.Qf3 aiming for Rd3. **24...f4 25.Bd2 Bxd5 26.Qxd5+ Qf7 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7=** Endgame. KRB-KRB **28.Bc3** Prevents Be5. **28...Rd8 29.a4 g6 30.Kf1 Bc7 31.Re1 h5 32.Re4 g5 33.Ke2 Rd5 34.b3 Rd7 35.b4 cxb4 36.Rxb4 Rd5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=1 ---
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=10
Black=12
Best: White=2
Black=1
½-½

B33
□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier 2739**
■ **Radjabov,Teimour 2747**
Global Chess League rapid (3.3) 24.6.23
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
RR: 'Inf 100/(83)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.h4 Be6** 13...g6 is a critical line. 13...g6 ist die kritische Fortsetzung.
14.Nce3 Excellent horsemanship.
14...Be7 15.Bd3
[15.Qf3 Qd7 16.Rd1 Bd8 17.Be2 Ne7 18.h5 h6 19.0-0 Qc8 20.Nxe7+ Bxe7 21.b3 Bg5 22.Rxd6 Qxc3 23.Rxa6 Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Qxe3 25.fxe3 Rfc8 26.Ra5 Ra8 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.Bxb5 Rxa2 29.Rb1 Ra3 Jakovenko,D (2708)-Ivanchuk,V (2729) Foros 100/(83) 2007]
[15.a4 Qd7 16.Be2 Bd8 17.axb5 axb5 18.h5 Bg5 19.0-0 Rfd8 20.b4 Bxe3 21.Nxe3 Ne7 22.Qd3 d5 23.exd5 Bxd5 24.Ng4 f6 25.h6 Ng6 26.Rfd1 Nf4 27.Qe3 Qf7 28.Bf3 Qg6 29.g3 Nh3+ 8.♘f3 ed5 9.e3 0-0 64800 (2552)-17.♔h1 ♗d7 (2568) Banjaluka 35/57 1983 ½-½]
15...Qd7 16.Bc2N White is slightly better. A top novelty. Eine Top Neuerung.

[Predecessor: 16.a4 Bd8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ra6 -0.24/20 *(⌓18.h5* 0.23/18 *)* 18...Kh8 0.42/18 *(18...Qc8=* -0.24/20 *19.Ra3 Ne7)* 19.Qa1 0.00/21 *(19.h5±* 0.42/18 *)* 19...Qb7 0.42/22 *(19...Ne7=* 0.00/21 was preferrable. *)* 20.b4 -0.62/22 *(20.h5±* 0.42/22 *)* 20...Bc8 0.20/22 *(20...f5!∓* -0.62/22 *)* 21.Ra3= Be6 22.Ra6 -0.67/22 *(22.g4=* 0.19/21 *)* 22...Bc8 0.20/22 *(22...f5!∓* -0.67/22 *)* 23.Ra3= Be6 Shirov,A (2684)-Martinez Alcantara,J (2592) Arica op 6th 2019 (7) ½-½]

[16.Nf5 Kh8 17.a4 Bd8 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qf3 b4 20.h5 bxc3 21.bxc3 Ne7 22.Ra6 Nxf5 23.exf5 Bxd5 24.Qxd5 Bb6 25.h6 g6 26.0-0 Bc5 27.Rc6 Qe7 28.f6 Qe6 29.Bc4 Qg4 30.Rc7 e4 4.Nd4 Bc5 5.Nf5 d5 (2453)-Keetman,M (2453) 130/2 Belgrad 2016 ½-½]

[16.Qf3 Bd8 17.g4 a5 18.g5 Kh8 19.Rg1 b4 20.h5 bxc3 21.bxc3 Qa7 22.h6 g6 23.a4 Qc5 24.Rb1 Rxb1+ 25.Bxb1 Qa3 26.Bc2 Bxd5 27.Nxd5 Nb4 28.Bd1 Nxd5 29.exd5 Kg8 30.Qe3 Qa2 Middelburg,T (2347)-Rogozenko,D (2562) chT Amsterdam NED 2000 0-1 31.Qd2 Qxd2+ 32.Kxd2 f6 33.f4 exf4 34.Bg4 f5 35.Be2 Re8 36.Bb5 Re3 37.Bd7 Rg3 38.Be6+ Kf8 39.Rb1 Bxg5 40.Rb8+ Ke7 41.Rb7+ Kf6 42.Rxh7 f3+ Nagy,R (2347)-Serfezi,L (2562) GER-ch35 U18 corr 1999 0-1]

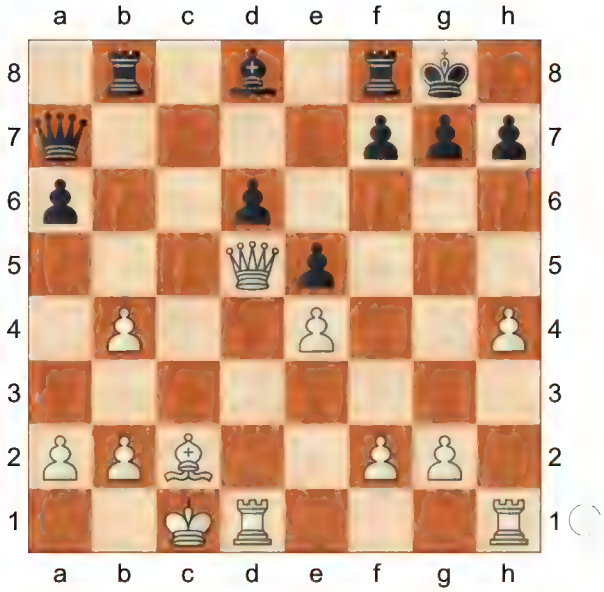
16...Bd8 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.0-0-0 Bxd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.Qxd5 b4 0.94/21
Black is weak on the light squares. White now steadily converts the win.

[20...Qa7± 0.52/19]

21.cxb4!± White is more active.

21...Qa7 1.42/18

[⌓21...Rxb4 0.94/20 22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Rb6]



22.a3!

[22.Qxd6 Be7 23.Qd7 *(23.Qxe5 Rxb4 24.Qg3 a5=)* 23...Rb7=]

22...Bb6 23.Kb1

[23.Qxd6?! Bd4±]

23...Bxf2 24.Bb3

[24.Qxd6?! a5±]

24...Bd4 25.Rc1

[25.Qxd6?! a5±]

25...a5 26.bxa5 Qa6 27.Ka2
Black must now prevent Rc7. **27...Qe2**

(Diagram)

28.Rb1

[28.Qxd6? Qxb2#]

[28.Rc2? Qxc2 29.Rb1 *(29.Bxc2? Rxb2+ 30.Ka1 Rxc2+-+* Discovered Attack (Check) *)* 29...Qxg2-+]

28...Kh8 29.Rhc1

[29.Qxd6 Qxg2 30.Rhc1 Qxe4=]

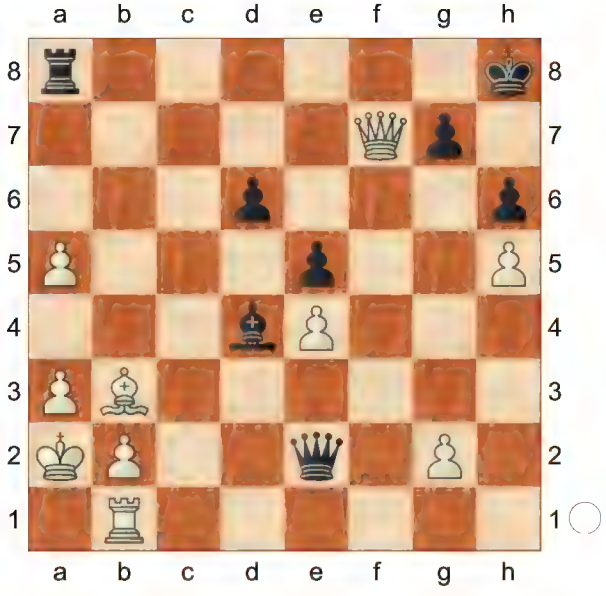
29...Rfc8? 4.71/18

[29...Bc5 2.34/17 30.Bc4 Qxg2]

30.Rxc8++-

[30.Qxf7? Rxc1-+ *(30...Qxe4?*

31.Rxc8+ Rxc8 32.Bd5+-; 30...Qxe4? 31.Rxc8+ Rxc8 32.a6+-)]
[30.Qxd6 Rd8 31.Qc6 Qxg2+-]
30...Rxc8 31.Qxf7 h6 5.29/18
[31...Rb8 3.74/19 was called for. 32.h5 h6]
32.h5 Ra8



33.a6! White is clearly winning.
33...Qxa6 34.Rf1 Qc8 Inhibits Qf8+.
[Inferior is 34...Qe2 35.Qf8+ *(35.Rb1 Rxa3+* Decoy *36.Kxa3 Bc5+ 37.Ka2 Qa6+)* 35...Kh7 36.Bg8+ *(36.Qxa8? Qxb2#)* 36...Kh8 37.Be6+ *(37.Bc4+ Kh7+-)* 37...Rxf8 38.Rxf8+ Kh7 39.Bg8+ Kh8 40.Bf7+ Kh7 41.Bg6#]
35.Qg6 d5 7.49/24
[⌓35...Ra7 4.39/21 36.Qxd6 Bc5]
36.Rf7
[36.Bxd5? loses. Qc2-+]
36...Qg8 37.Bxd5 Rb8 38.b4 Rc8
39.Rc7 Discovered Attack **39...Qf8**
40.Qf7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.40.
Mistake: --- Black=5
OK: White=11 Black=10
Strong: White=2 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2753**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2745**
Astana Satty Zhuldyz Blitz (13) 25.04.23
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.g3 fxe4 12.Bg2 Bg7 13.Bxe4 Be6 14.Qh5 Rc8 15.0-0
[15.c3 Ne7 16.Rd1 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Qd7 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.0-0 0-0 20.Nc2 Rc5 21.Rd2 Bh6 22.Ne3 e4 23.Qe2 f5 24.Rfd1 Rd8 25.Rd4 Re5 26.Nd5 Kh8 27.Nb4 d5 28.c4 bxc4 29.Rxc4 f4 5.Be2 0-0-0 6.Be3 (2681)-Bolz,B (2651) 24/276 Nis 1977 0-1]
15...Ne7 16.Rad1 Rc5 is the legacy move (16...Nxd5). ist old school (16... Sxd5). **17.Nxe7N** White has an edge.
[17.Nb4 Qb6 18.Qg5 Kf8 19.Qe3

f5 20.Bg2 e4 21.c3 Kf7 22.Rfe1 Ng6 23.Nd3 Rc6 24.Qe2 Sicilian Sveshnikov-11.g3 fxe4 12.♗g2 ♗g7 13. Survey 2004]

17...Qxe7 18.b4 Rc3 19.Nb1 Rc4

20.Nd2 Rxb4 Strongly threatening ...d5.

21.c3 Ra4 ...d5 would now be deadly.

22.c4 h6N 0.70/19

[Predecessor: 22...Qd7 23.Bc2 Threatens to win with Ne4. Bg4 24.Qg5 f6 25.Qe3 Hoping for Ne4! Rxa2 26.Bb3 Ra3 27.Ra1 *(27.cxb5!? Bxd1 28.Rxd1 Qxb5 29.Qa7±)* 27...Rxa1? 2.14/19 *(27...b4±* 0.48/22 *)* 28.Rxa1+- Be6 2.99/23 *(28...Qc6* 1.65/20 was called for. *)* 29.Rxa6 1-0 (45) Spasov,V (2499)-Fishchuk,V (2229) Arandjelovac 2023]

[22...bxc4? 23.Rb1 *(23.Bxh7? c3-+; 23.Bc6+ Bd7±)* 23...c3 24.Bc6+ *(24.Rb8+ Kd7+-)* 24...Kd8 25.Bxa4+-]

[22...Rxa2 23.Bc6+ Bd7 24.Bxd7+ Qxd7 25.Ne4+-]

[22...Qd7= 0.19/24]

23.Bc6+± Kf8 24.cxb5? -2.97/20

[24.Ne4!± 0.61/20 stays ahead.]

24...axb5? 0.09/18

[24...Bxa2? 25.b6 Rb4 26.Ne4 Rxb6 27.Rxd6+-]

[Better is 24...Bg4-+ -2.97/20 25.Qxg4 Rxg4]

25.Ne4 -1.36/19

[25.Qe2= 0.09/18 Qc7 *(25...Rxa2 26.Qxb5 Qc7 27.Ne4+-)* 26.Qxb5]

25...d5!∓

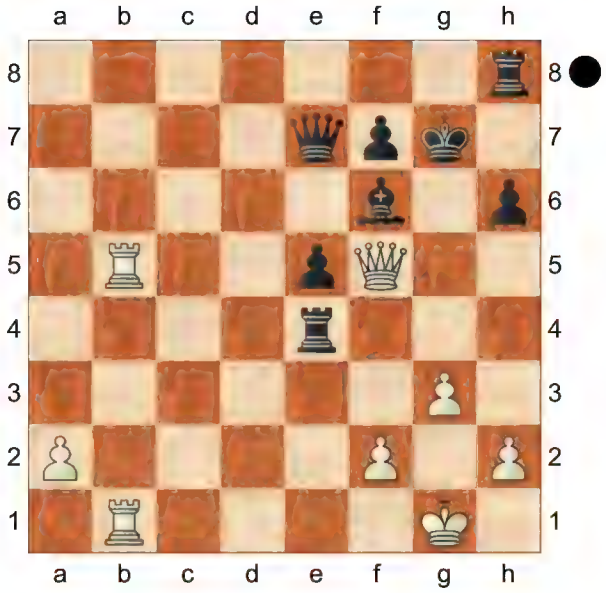
[25...Rxa2 26.Rxd6 *(26.Bd5 Ra4=)* 26...Kg8 27.Rfd1+- *(27.Bxb5 Ra7+-)*]

26.Bxd5 Bxd5 Remove Defender

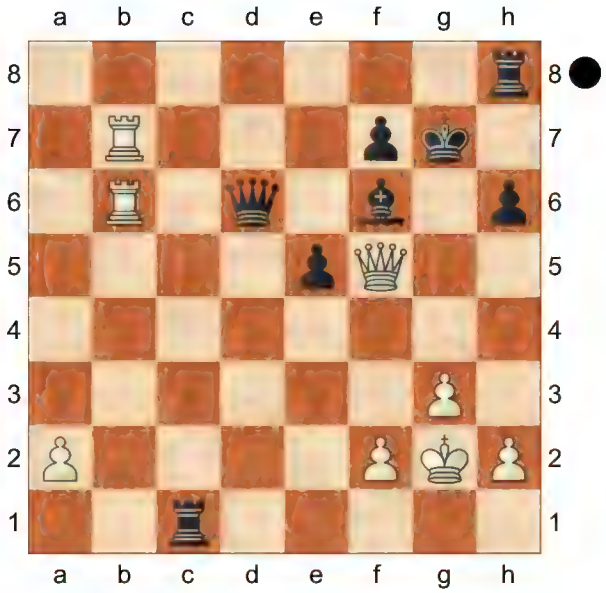
27.Rxd5 Rxe4 28.Rxb5 And now Rb8+ would win. **28...Bf6 29.Rfb1** -2.64/22

[29.Rb8+ -1.94/22 was worth a try. Kg7 30.Rxh8 Kxh8 31.Qxh6+ Kg8 32.Rb1]

29...Kg7-+ 30.Qf5



Rc4 31.Rb7 Qd6 32.R1b6 Rc1+ 33.Kg2



Rc6 0.00/28

[33...Qd5+!-+ -2.83/29 34.Kh3 Rc6 35.Rxc6 Qxc6]

34.Qg4+= The position is equal.

34...Kf8!

[Avoid the trap 34...Bg5? 35.Qf3 Qf6 36.Rxc6+- *(36.Qxc6 Qf5+-)*]

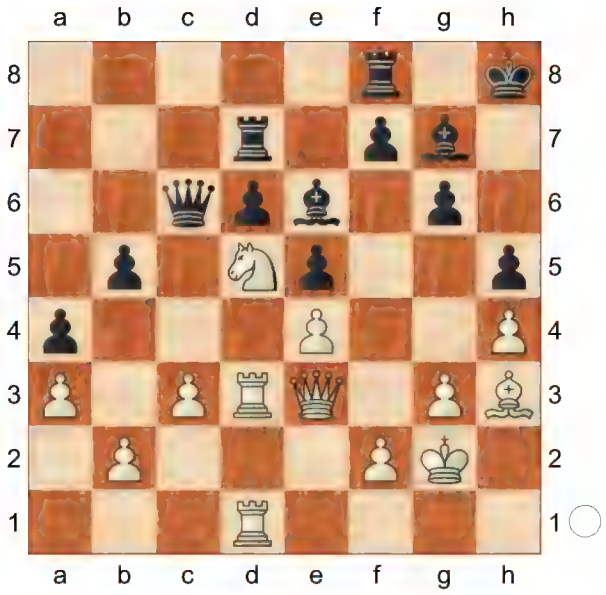
35.Rb8+ Ke7 36.R8b7+ Kf8 37.Rb8+ Ke7 38.R8b7+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.46.
Loses game: White=1 ---
Missed win: ---
Black=2
Mistake: White=2
Black=1
OK: White=11
Black=8
Best: White=2
Black=5
Strong: ---
Black=2
½-½

B33
□ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2700**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2742**
Warsaw Superbet Blitz (8) 24.05.2023
[MH]

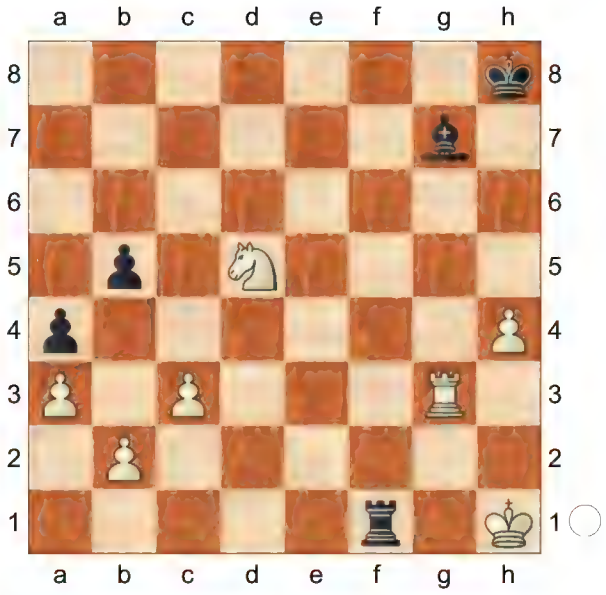
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 seems to push 8.0-0 aside.
setzt sich inzwischen gegen 8.0-0 durch.
8...b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.h4 g6 14.g3N Bg7 15.Bg2 0.05/23
[15.h5± 0.48/20 Be6 16.Bh3 Qd7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Bg2 b4 19.Ndxb4 Nxb4 20.Nxb4 a5 21.Nd3 Rfc8 22.Qc2 f5 23.0-0 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Bf7 25.Rfe1 d5 26.Bg2 e4 27.Nf4 Qb5 28.Bh3 Rc5 29.Rab1 Qc6 30.Qd2 5.f4 h5 6.Be3 Nh6 (2517)-8.Qf3 Nc6 9. e3 h6 (2561) Odessa (m/2-rapid) 109/ 198 2010 ½-½]
15...h5N
[15...Ne7 16.Nce3 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bb7 18.0-0 Rc8 0.59/18 *(18...Kh8=* 0.10/20 *)* 19.Qd2 0.22/20 *(19.a4±* 0.59/18 should be considered. *)* 19...Rc5= 20.Ne3 Qb6 21.Rad1 Rd8]
[15...Be6 16.Nce3 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Qh5 Ne7 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qg5 Rf6 23.h5 Bh6 24.Qh4 e4 25.0-0 Qe5 26.Rad1 f4 27.Bxe4 Bg5 28.Qg4 fxg3 29.fxg3 Rg8 30.Kh2 Ocampo Betancur,C (1919)- Hernandez Fierro,R (2196) Rivera Hernandez Memorial 2023 (10) 0-1]
16.0-0 a5 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.Nce3 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Be6 20.Rfd1 Kh8 21.a3 a4 22.Qe2 Qc8 23.Rd3 Qc4 24.Ne3 Qc5 25.Rad1 Rfd8 0.51/23
[25...Bb3= 0.00/22]
26.Nd5 0.12/22
[26.g4± 0.51/23]
26...Rd7 27.Kh2 Kg8 28.Bh3 Rf8 29.Kg2 Kh8 30.Qe3 Qc6? 2.15/23
[30...Qxe3± 0.51/24 31.Nxe3 Rfd8]
31.Nb4 1.06/21
[31.Bxe6!+- 2.15/23 and White stays clearly on top. fxe6 32.Nb4]
31...Qc7 2.06/24
[31...Bxh3+± 1.06/21 32.Kxh3 Qc7]
32.Nd5 0.86/21
[32.Bxe6+- 2.06/24 and the rest is easy. fxe6 33.Na6]
32...Qc6 1.87/22
[32...Qb8± 0.86/21]

(Diagram)

33.Kh2? 0.29/20
[33.Bxe6!+- 1.87/22 fxe6 34.Nb4]
33...Qb7 1.76/22
[33...Kh7= 0.29/20 and Black has



nothing to worry.]
34.Qe2 0.27/22
[34.Nb6+- 1.76/22 Rc7 35.Bxe6 *(35.Rxd6 Bb3+-)* 35...fxe6 36.Rxd6]
34...Qc6 35.Qd2 Qc5 36.Qe2 0.00/18
[36.f3± 0.51/22]
36...Qc6 0.41/21
[36...Bh6= 0.00/18]
37.Qe3 Qb7 1.83/20
[Better is 37...Kh7± 0.33/20]
38.Nb6+- Rdd8 39.Rxd6 1.46/23
[39.Bxe6+- 1.95/25 fxe6 40.Rxd6 Rxd6 41.Rxd6]
39...Rxd6± 40.Rxd6 Bxh3 1.98/20
[40...Qc7± 1.54/19 41.Qd2 Bb3]
41.Kxh3+- Hoping for Nd5. **41...Qc7** 2.86/21
[41...f5 1.98/19 might work better. 42.c4 *(42.Rxg6 Qxe4 43.Qxe4* Remove Defender *fxe4+-)* 42...bxc4]
42.Rd1 f5 43.Nd5 1.33/23
[43.exf5+- 1.84/22 Rxf5 44.Nd5]
43...Qf7 1.70/25
[43...Qc4± 1.33/23]
44.exf5 gxf5 45.Kg2 0.88/20
[45.Qe2+- 1.62/22]
45...f4± 46.gxf4 exf4 47.Qf3 White is more active. **47...Qg6+ 48.Kh1** 0.39/20
[48.Kf1± 0.99/24 Ne7! is the strong threat. Qg4 49.Rd3]
48...Qg4± 49.Qxg4 hxg4 Endgame. KRB-KRN **50.Rg1** 0.04/22
[50.Kg2± 0.61/17]
50...g3 1.46/22 **51.fxg3± fxg3 52.Rxg3 Rf1+**



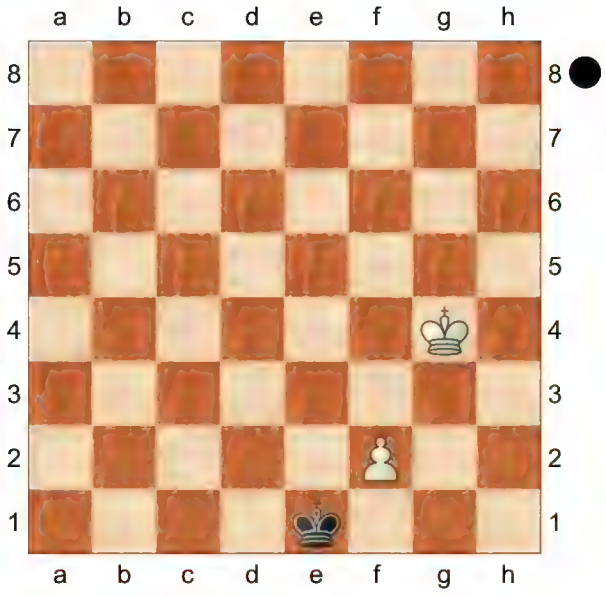
53.Kh2? 0.00/40
[Only move: 53.Rg1!± 1.53/25 Rf3 *(53...Rf2 54.Rg2=)* 54.Rg4]
53...Be5= Pin. The position is equal.
54.Kg2! Rd1 55.Rg5 Rxd5 KRB-KR **56.Kf3 Rc5 57.Ke4 Bd6 58.Rxc5 Bxc5** KB-KP **59.Kd5 Be3 60.Kc6 Bc1 61.Kxb5 Bxb2** KB-K3P **62.Kb4** Strongly threatening c4! **62...Kg7 63.c4 Bf6 64.c5 Bxh4 65.Kxa4** KB-KPP **65...Kf7 66.Kb5** Vorgänger: **66...Ke7 67.Kb6 Bf2 68.a4 Kd7 69.a5 Kc8 70.a6 Kb8 71.a7+ Ka8 72.Kc6 Kxa7**
Sjugirov,S (2680)-Papadiamandis,E (2388) Titled Tuesday intern op 01st Feb-A blitz 2022 (3) 1-0 **73.Kb5 Bxc5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.36.
Loses game: --- Black=1

Mistake: White=13
Black=10
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=2
OK: White=16
Black=25
Best: White=2
Black=7
Strong: White=1 ---
. Loss on time!?
1-0

		B33
□	**Van Foreest,Jorden**	**2707**
■	**Aryan,Chopra**	**2634**

FIDE Grand Swiss (9) 03.11.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Nxe7 Nxe7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qd2 The position is equal.
[12.c4 is interesting. Bb7 13.Bd3 *(13.cxb5 Bxe4 14.bxa6 0-0 15.Be2 d5 16.0-0 Kh8 17.Kh1 d4 18.Bd3 Bg6 19.Rc1 Rg8 20.Bc4 Nd5 21.Qb3 Nf4 22.g3 Qd7 23.gxf4 Be4+ 24.f3 Qh3 25.Rf2 d3 26.fxe4 Qe3 27.Qxd3 Qxf2* 17.h5?! (2605)-17.c4 (2344) 52/57 Herning 1991 (2) 1-0 *)* 13...f5 14.exf5 Rg8 15.cxb5 Qa5+ 16.Qd2]
12...d5N
[12...Bb7 13.0-0-0
A) 13...Bxe4 14.Qxd6 Qxd6 15.Rxd6 Nc6 16.f3 *(16.Rxf6 Ke7 17.Rh6 Rac8* Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines # *)* 16...Ke7 17.Rd2 Bf5 Chiburdanidze,M-Levitina,I (m/2) 38/(403) 1984;
B) 13...d5 14.exd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 Nxd5 16.c4 bxc4 17.Nxc4 0-0-0 18.Na5 Nf4 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Nxb7 Kxb7 21.g3 Ne6 22.Bc4 Rd7 23.Re1 Kb6 24.Re4 a5 25.Rh4 Ng5 26.Be2 Rd6 27.Rh5 102.-13.a4 Bb4 14.Qa4 USSR (ch) 22/40 1976 1-0]
13.exd5 Qxd5 14.0-0-0 Qxd2+ 15.Rxd2 Be6 16.c4 Nf5 17.b3 bxc4 18.Bxc4 Ke7 19.Rhd1 Rhc8 20.Kb2 Rc7 21.Bd3 Nd4 22.Nc2 Nxc2 23.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 24.Kxc2= Endgame. KRB-KRB **24...f5 25.g3 a5 26.Kb2 Rb8 27.Rc1 Kd6 28.Bc4 Rb4 29.a3 Rb8 30.Bxe6 fxe6** KR-KR **31.Rc4 e4 32.b4 axb4 33.a4 b3 34.a5 Ra8 35.Ra4 Ra6 36.Kxb3 Kc5 37.Kc3 Kb5 38.Ra1 e5**
[38...Rxa5? loses. 39.Rxa5+ Kxa5 40.Kd4+-]
39.Kd2 Rxa5 40.Rxa5+ Kxa5 KP-KP **41.g4 fxg4 42.Ke3 Kb4 43.Kxe4 Kc3 44.Kxe5** KPP-KPP **44...Kd3 45.Kf4 Ke2 46.Kg3 h5 47.h3 Ke1 48.hxg4 hxg4 49.Kxg4**



White wants to mate with Kf3. **49...Kxf2** A rather calm draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless) .
OK: White=15
Black=20
Best: White=2
Black=1
½-½

B33

□ **Oparin,Grigoriy** **2667**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
Sharjah Masters 6th (8) 24.05.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nde2 Bc5 6...Bc5 is better than 6...Bb4. 6...Lc5 ist besser als 6...Lb4. **7.Ng3 d6** ...Ng4 is the strong threat.
[7...0-0 8.Bc4 d6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.0-0 Ne7 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Be6 14.c3 a5 15.Kh1 g6 16.f3 Kg7 17.a3 Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qe6 19.Qd2 h5 20.h3 b5 21.Rab1 f6 Babic,D (2463)-Marrero Rodriguez,A (2393) ICCF 2016 ½-½]
8.Na4N
[8.Be2 a6 *(8...Be6 9.0-0 d5 10.Nh5 Nxh5 11.exd5 Bxd5 12.Qxd5 Qxd5 13.Nxd5 Rd8 14.Nc7+ Kd7 15.Na6 bxa6 16.Bxh5* Sicilian Pelikan-6.♘de2 Survey 1997 *)* 9.0-0 0-0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Nd5 Qh4 13.Qd3 g6 14.c3 Be6 15.b4 Ba7 16.a4 Ne7 17.Rad1 Bxd5 18.exd5 f5 19.c4 e4 20.Qb3 Qf6 21.c5 Kh7 22.Rc1 Qe5 Drachev,O (2163)-6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cd5,f (1967) corr MS-340 BDF 2022 (4) 1-0 23.Rfd1 f4 24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Bd3 Qe5 26.Re1 Qg5 27.cxd6 Nf5 28.Rc7+ Kg8 29.Bxf5 Qxf5 30.Ree7 Bd4 31.d7 Rf7 32.Rxf7 Qxf7 33.Rc8+ Drachev,O (2163)-6.♘db5 d5 7.♗f4 e5 8.cd5,f (1967) corr MS-340 BDF 2022 (4) 1-0]
8...Bb4+ 9.c3 Ba5 White has an edge.
10.b4 Bc7 11.Be2 h6N
[Vorgänger: 11...0-0 12.0-0 a6 13.Be3 h6 14.h3 Be6 15.Qc1 b5 16.Nb2 Bb6 17.a4 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Topalov,V (2730)-Wang,H (2744) Norway Chess 10th 2022 (7) ½-½]
12.0-0 0-0 13.b5 Ne7 14.c4 Ng6 15.Be3 Be6 16.c5 -0.45/9
[16.Qc2= 0.25/7]
16...Nf4 17.cxd6
[17.Bf3 looks sharper. Bc4 18.b6 axb6 19.cxb6 Qd7 20.bxc7 Rxa4 21.Re1]
17...Bxd6 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 Qxd1 20.Bxd1 This pair of bishops is nice. **20...Rfd8 21.Bb3** Prevents Bc4. The position is equal. **21...Rd3 22.Bxe6! Nxe6 23.Be7 Ne8 24.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Nd4 26.f4 f6 27.fxe5 fxe5 28.Nf5 Nxb5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=1 ---
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=10
Black=10
Strong: White=1 ---
½-½

B33

□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2694**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2747**
Bundesliga 2223 (10.1) 18.03.2023
[Krasenkow,Michal, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Nepomniachtchi got off to a great start in the Zagreb GCT tournament (although he faded towards the end) . This game showed how dangerous he is as a 1. e4 player. **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.g4N** Recently 9.a4 got a lot of attention. An unusual move. White fights against ... f7-f5 but weakens his kingside. He must therefore castle queenside, which leads to positions typical for the Najdorf Sicilian. 9.a4 erhält neuerdings viel Aufmerksamkeit.

[9.c4 Be7 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Kh1 f5 13.f3 Nc5 14.Be3 Nxd3 15.Qxd3 b6 16.b4 f4 17.Bg1 Bf5 18.Qe2 a6 19.Nc3 Rf6 20.Ne4 Rh6 21.c5 bxc5 22.bxc5 dxc5 23.Rfd1 Rc8 Graf,Y (2467)-13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 a5 (2675) 27/567 Lone Pine 1979 (6) ½-½]

[9.a4 Be7 *(9...Nd7 10.Be2 Be7 11.Bd2 f5 12.a5 0-0 13.0-0 e4 14.Nd4 Ne5 15.a6 b6 16.Bf4 Bd7 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.dxc6 Qc7 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Qe6 Bd6 23.Bb5 Rf6 24.Qc4* Bauer,W-Nickel,A corr 52/(149) 1990 *)* 10.Be2 *(10.Bd2 0-0 11.a5 a6 12.Na3 Nd7 13.Nc4 f5 14.Bb4 Rf6 15.Qd2 Rg6 16.g3 e4 17.h4 b5 18.axb6 Nxb6 19.Na5 Bd7 20.0-0-0 Bf6 21.Nc6 Qe8 22.Kb1 Kh8 23.h5 Rh6 24.Qe3 Na4* Ian Nepomniachtchi-Nepomniachtchi, I *)* 10...0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3 a5 14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1]

9...Be7 10.Rg1

[10.Be3 a6 11.Nc3
A) 11...Bg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.Ne4 Qe7 0.50/16 *(13...Qg6=* 0.00/12 *14.Bd3 Bxg4 15.Nxd6+ Qxd6 16.Qxg4 0-0)* 14.Qf3± 0-0= 1/2 (39) Groszpeter,A (2539)-Horvath,P (2469) Zalakaros 2008;
B) 11...0-0 12.h4 Against Bg5 Nd7 13.Qd2 b5 14.g5 0-1 (39) Krysa,L (2541)-Omelja,A (2437) chess.com INT 2023 Nb6∞]

10...0-0N

[Predecessor: 10...a6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.g5 -0.25/20 *(12.Be3* 0.13/18 feels stronger. *)* 12...Nd7= 13.Be3 f5 Repels Qg4 14.gxf6! Nxf6 15.Bd3 Against Bf5 Qe8 16.Qe2 Nh5 ½-½ (48) Hynes,W (2449)-Lumley,B (2430) ICCF email 2020]

11.Be3 The position is equal. **11...Nd7**

12.Qd2 Nf6

[12...a6!? 13.Nc3 b5 14.0-0-0 Nb6⇄]

13.f3 a6 Inhibits c4. **14.Nc3 b5**

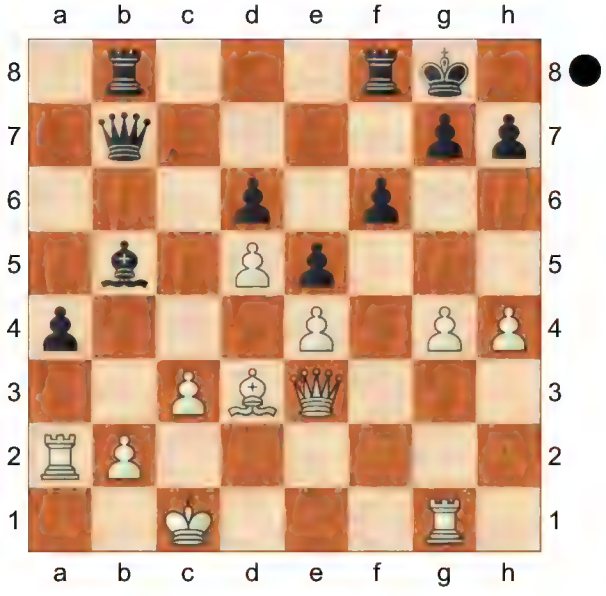
15.Ne4?! -0.01/13 Too early.

[15.0-0-0 is logical, e.g. b4 16.Ne4 a5 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.g5 Be7 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Bf5∞]
[15.0-0-0± 0.36/14]

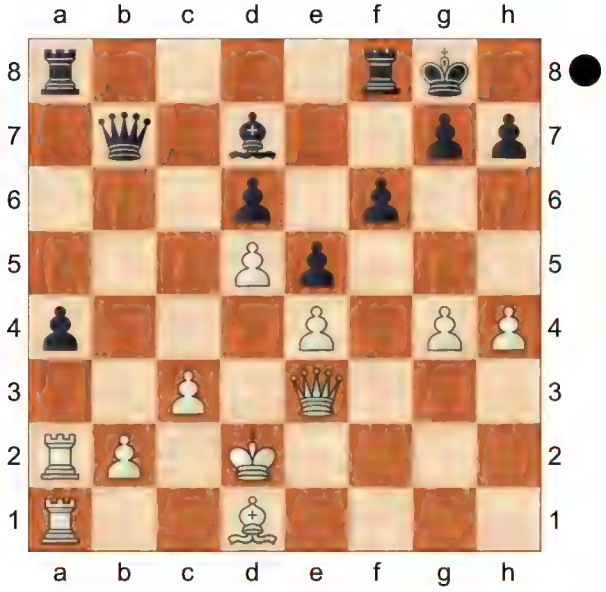
15...Nxe4= 16.fxe4 Bh4+ 17.Kd1

[17.Bf2 Bxf2+ 18.Qxf2 Bd7
- Black has got rid of his passive bishop and obtains the better

prospects.]
17...f6!? Black insists on the exchange of dark-squared bishops. **18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 Bg5** Threatening ...Bxg4+! **20.Ra3 Rb8 21.Kc1 a5 22.Bd3** -0.72/16
[22.Bxg5? -4.01/21 22.b3 -0.29 Qb6!!-+]
[22.Rxa5? Bxe3 23.Qxe3 Qxa5-+]
[22.Bxg5 Qb6 23.Qe3 Qxb2+ *(23...fxg5 24.Qxb6 Rxb6 25.Bd3±)* 24.Kd2 fxg5-+]
[22.b3= -0.27/12]
22...Bd7∓ 23.h4
[23.Rxa5? Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Qxa5-+]
[23.Bxg5? Qb6 24.Be3 Qxb2+ 25.Kd1 Qxa3-+]
23...Bxe3
[≤23...Bxh4 0.27/12 23...Bxe3 -0.72 24.Qxa5]
24.Qxe3 a4 25.c3 Qc7 26.Bc2?! White will not be able to capture the a4 pawn.
[⌓26.Rg2 with firm defence.]
26...Qb7 27.Ra2 Bb5 28.Kd2
[28.Bd3? -3.16/22 28.Kd2 -0.70

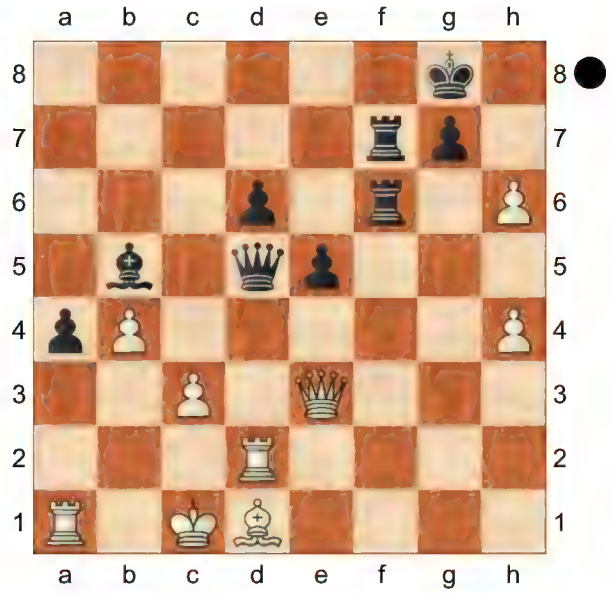


Bxd3! 29.Qxd3 Qb3 30.Kb1 a3∓]
28...Ra8 29.Rga1 Bd7 30.Bd1?! This allows Black to open a second front.
[⌓30.Kc1 ∆Bxg4?! -0.23/22 *(*or *30...h5?!* 0.16/17 30...Rab8 -0.82 *31.gxh5 f5! 32.exf5 Bxf5 33.Rxa4; ⌓30...Rab8∓; 30...Rab8∓* -0.68/21 *)* 31.Rxa4∞]



30...h5! Deflection **31.gxh5 f5 32.h6!** White has no pieces on the kingside and must use tricks to organize his defence.
[32.exf5 -2.58/15 32.h6 -1.08 Rxf5]
32...fxe4 33.Qxe4 Rf2+
[33...gxh6 34.Qg6+ *(34.Bxa4 Rf2+ 35.Ke1 Bf5=)* 34...Kh8 35.Qxh6+ *(35.Bxa4 Qxd5+ 36.Ke1 Qh1+ 37.Ke2 Qf3+ 38.Kd2 Qf4+ 39.Kc2 Bf5+)* 35...Kg8 36.Qg6+ *(36.Qxd6 Ra6=)* 36...Kh8 37.Qxd6 *(37.Bxa4 Qxd5+ 38.Ke1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2 Qf3+ 40.Kd2 Qf4+ 41.Kc2 Bf5+)* 37...Rf2+ 38.Kc1±]
34.Kc1 Raf8 Black has strong compensation. Black has more active pieces.
[34...gxh6? 35.Qg6+ *(35.Bxa4? Rxa4 36.Qg6+ Kf8-+)* 35...Kh8 36.Qxh6+ *(36.Qxd6 Raf8+-)* 36...Kg8 37.b4+- *(37.Bxa4? Rxa4*

38.Qg6+ Kf8-+; 37.Qxd6 Ra6+-)]
35.Qg6 R8f7 Really sharp! **36.b4!**
Black must now prevent Rxf2.
[36.Qxd6 Rf1 37.b3 *(37.Qxe5? Bg4-+)* 37...Qxb3-+ *(37...axb3? 38.Ra8+ Kh7 39.hxg7-+)*]
36...R2f6 37.Qd3 Bb5
[37...gxh6?! 38.Rg2+ Kf8 39.Kb2±]
38.Qe3 -1.82/11
[⌓38.Qg3 Qxd5 39.Rd2 Qc6 Threatens to win with ...Rf3! 40.Bh5 Rc7 41.Ra3!∓]
[38.c4? Bxc4 39.Qxc4 Rc7-+]
[38.Qe4∓ -0.76/12 was worth a try.]
38...Qxd5-+
[38...Rxh6 39.Bxa4 Bxa4 *(39...Rxh4 40.Bc2±)* 40.Rxa4 Qxd5 *(40...Rxh4 41.Ra8+ Kh7 42.Qg3=)* 41.Qe2∓]
39.Rd2



Qc6! Strongly threatening ...Rf3!
40.Bc2? -6.11/10 This blunder ends the game.
[40.Bh5 is now senseless due to g6? -3.97/10 *(40...Rf1+* -1.90/7 *41.Kb2 R7f3 42.Bxf3 Rxf3 43.Rxd6 Rxe3 44.Rxc6 Re2+ 45.Ka3 Bxc6)*]
[40.Ra3 Rxh6∓]
[⌓40.Ra3 -1.67/17 Rxh6 *(40...gxh6 41.Bc2=)* 41.Qg5]
40...Rf3 Deflection
[40...gxh6 41.Be4 Qe8 *(41...Qc4 42.Bd5±* Pin, Double Attack *)* 42.Kb2± *(42.Bd5 Kh8±)*]
41.Qe4 Qxc3 (-> ...Rf1+)
[41...Rxc3 42.Qh7+ Kf8 43.hxg7+ *(43.Qh8+? Ke7-+)* 43...Rxg7 44.Qh8+ Rg8 45.Qf6+ Ke8 46.Rxa4 Bxa4 *(46...Rg1+? 47.Kb2+-)* 47.Qe6+ Kf8 48.Qf6+ Ke8 49.Qe6+ Kf8 50.Qf6+ Ke8=]
42.Qa8+ Rf8 43.Qd5+ Kh8 44.hxg7+ Kxg7 45.Qb7+ R3f7 -6.45/3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.02 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=4 ---
Inaccurate: White=2 ---
OK: White=16
Black=22
Best: White=4
Black=2
Strong: ---
Black=1
[Weaker is 45...Kh8 46.Qh7#]
[⌓45...R8f7 -#15/10 46.Qxf7+ Kxf7 47.Ra2 Be2 *(47...Qxb4? 48.h5-+)* 48.Kb1 Rf1+ *(48...Qxd2? 49.Bg6+ Kxg6 50.Rxd2-+)* 49.Bd1 Bd3+ *(49...Bxd1* is a self mate. *50.Rf2+ Rxf2 51.Rxf2+ Ke6 52.Rg2 Bf3 53.Rg6+ Kd5 54.Rg7 Be4+ 55.Ka2 Qc2+ 56.Ka3 Qb3#)* 50.Rxd3 Qxd3+ 51.Kb2 Rxd1 *(51...Qxd1?* leads to mate. *52.Rxa4 Rf2+ 53.Kc3 Qc2#; 51...a3+ 52.Rxa3 Rf2+ 53.Bc2 Rxc2+ 54.Kb1 Qd1#)* 52.Rxa4 Rd2+ 53.Kc1 Qc2#]
0-1

B33

□ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2700**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2729**

Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Late blitz (10)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8! now scores much better than the old 12...Bg5. punktet besser als das ältere 12...Lg5.

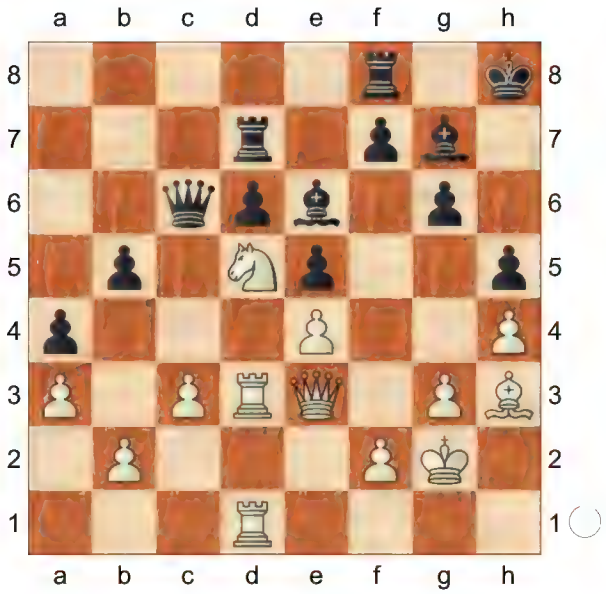
13.h4 g6 14.g3 Bg7 15.Bg2
[15.h5 Be6 16.Bh3 Qd7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Bg2 b4 19.Ndxb4 Nxb4 20.Nxb4 a5 21.Nd3 Rfc8 22.Qc2 f5 23.0-0 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Bf7 25.Rfe1 d5 26.Bg2 e4 27.Nf4 Qb5 28.Bh3 Rc5 29.Rab1 Qc6 5.f4 h5 6.Be3 Nh6 (2517)-8.Qf3 Nc6 9.e3 h6 (2561) Odessa (m/2-rapid) 109/198 2010 ½-½]

15...h5N
[Predecessor: 15...Ne7 16.Nce3 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bb7 18.0-0 Rc8 0.46/24 *(18...Kh8*= 0.02/21 is more appropriate. *)* 19.Qd2 Rc5 20.Ne3 Qb6 21.Rad1 Rd8 Zawadzka,J (2399)-Melia,S (2371) POL-GEO m (Women) Blitz 2020 (7) 1-0]
[15...Be6 16.Nce3 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Qh5 Ne7 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.Bxd5+ Kh8 22.Qg5 Rf6 23.h5 Bh6 24.Qh4 e4 25.0-0 Qe5 26.Rad1 f4 27.Bxe4 Bg5 28.Qg4 fxg3 29.fxg3 Rg8 30.Kh2 Ocampo Betancur,C (1919)-Hernandez Fierro,R (2196) Rivera Hernandez Memorial 2023 (10) 0-1]

16.0-0 a5 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.Nce3 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Be6 20.Rfd1 Kh8 21.a3 a4 22.Qe2 Qc8 23.Rd3 Qc4 24.Ne3 Qc5 25.Rad1 Rfd8 0.36/11
[25...Bb3= 0.00/12 feels stronger.]

26.Nd5
[26.g4!?]

26...Rd7 27.Kh2 Kg8 28.Bh3 Rf8 29.Kg2 Kh8 30.Qe3 Qc6? 2.45/25
[30...Qxe3± 0.37/13 31.Nxe3 Rfd8]



31.Nb4 1.19/19
[31.Bxe6!+- 2.45/25 is the precise move to win. fxe6 32.Nb4]

31...Qc7 2.62/11
[31...Bxh3+± 1.19/19 keeps fighting. 32.Kxh3 Qc7]

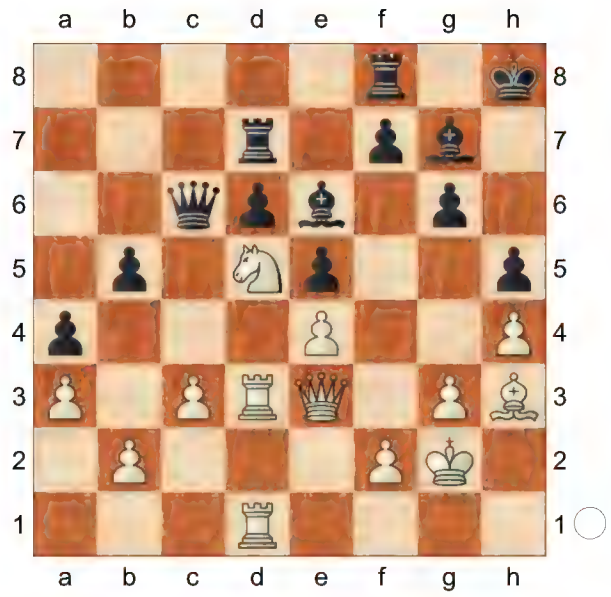
32.Nd5? 0.92/12
[32.Bxe6+- 2.62/11 fxe6 33.Na6]

32...Qc6 1.53/9
[⌓32...Qb8 0.92/12]

(Diagram)

33.Kh2 0.34/11
[33.Bxe6!± 1.53/9 fxe6 34.Nb4]

33...Qb7? 1.85/10
[33...Kh7± 0.34/11]



34.Qe2? 0.23/6
[34.Nb6+- 1.85/10 Rc7 35.Bxe6 *(35.Rxd6 Bb3+-)* 35...fxe6 36.Rxd6]
34...Qc6 35.Qd2 Qc5 36.Qe2 Qc6
[36...Bh6 is more complex. 37.f3 Rdd8 38.Kg2 Kg7]
37.Qe3 Qb7? 1.97/10
[37...Kh7± 0.36/10]
38.Nb6+- Rdd8 39.Rxd6 Rxd6 40.Rxd6 Bxh3 2.69/9
[⌓40...Qc7 1.72/16 41.Rd2 Bxh3 42.Kxh3 f5 43.exf5 Qc6]
41.Kxh3 Qc7 42.Rd1 f5 43.Nd5 Qf7 44.exf5 gxf5 45.Kg2 White is more active. **45...f4 46.gxf4 exf4 47.Qf3 Qg6+ 48.Kh1** 0.31/20
[48.Kh2± 1.08/14 Rg1! is the strong threat. Qg4 49.Qxg4 hxg4 50.Re1]
48...Qg4± 49.Qxg4 hxg4 Endgame. KRB-KRN **50.Rg1** 0.02/23
[White should try 50.Re1± 0.88/10]
50...g3? 1.95/10 **51.fxg3+- fxg3 52.Rxg3 Rf1+** 1.09/2
[⌓52...Bh6 1.46/13 53.Nb4 Rf4]
53.Kh2 0.00/17
[53.Kg2± 1.09/2 Rb1 54.Rg6]
53...Be5= Pin. The position is equal.
54.Kg2 Prevents Rf3. **54...Rd1 55.Rg5 Rxd5** KRB-KR **56.Kf3 Rc5 57.Ke4 Bd6 58.Rxc5 Bxc5** KB-KP **59.Kd5 Be3 60.Kc6 Bc1 61.Kxb5 Bxb2** KB-K3P **62.Kb4** c4! would now be deadly. **62...Kg7 63.c4 Bf6 64.c5 Bxh4 65.Kxa4** KB-KPP **65...Kf7 66.Kb5 Ke7 67.Kb6 Bf2 68.a4 Kd7 69.a5 Kc8 70.a6 Kb8 71.a7+ Ka8 72.Kc6 Kxa7 73.Kb5 Bxc5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.37.
Loses game: --- Black=3
Missed win: White=2 --- Mistake: White=5 Black=6
Inaccurate: White=3 Black=3
OK: White=16 Black=23
Best: White=2 Black=5
½-½

B33
□ **Sevian,Samuel** **2687**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2701**
PRO League Prelim rapid (5.4) 17.03.23
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 is now debated instead of 9.c4. wird nun anstelle von 9. c4 disktutiert. **9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.Bd2 Nd7 13.a5** White is slightly better. **13...Kh8N**
[13...a6 14.Na3 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3 g5 19.c4 f4 20.Bc3 Bf5 21.c5 Nxf3+

22.Qxf3 dxc5 23.Rad1 8..Nb8 9.a4!? theory-N,N 2020 Bd6 24.h3 Qe8 25.Nc4 Qg6 26.Nxd6 Qxd6 27.h4 gxh4 28.Qxf4 Qxf4 29.Rxf4 h5 30.Re1 Bg4 31.Rf6 Rxf6 32.Bxf6 Kf7 33.Bxh4 Re8 34.Rf1+ Kg8 35.Rf6 Re2 36.Rg6+ Kf8 37.d6 Rd2 38.Rg5 Purgimon,J-Markus,R USSR 8/195 1969]

[13...Nf6 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Nxa7 Huschenbeth,N (2571)-Hracek,Z (2582) La Castella 138/(67) 2018]

[13...e4 14.Nd4 Ne5 15.a6 b6 16.Bf4 Bd7 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.dxc6 Qc7 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Qe6 Bd6 23.Bb5 Rf6 24.Qc4 Rg6 25.b4 h6 26.Ba4 e3 27.fxe3 Rg4 28.Qe6 Bauer,W-Nickel,A corr 52/(149) 1990]

14.b4N

[Predecessor: 14.c4 Nc5 1.08/19 *(14...a6± 0.54/21)* 15.f3 a6 16.Nc3 Bg5 17.Ra3 0.48/19 *(17.Bxg5!± 1.04/19 Qxg5 18.b4 Qe3+ 19.Rf2)* 17...e4 1.72/10 *(17...Bxd2± 0.48/19 18.Qxd2 b6)* 18.b4 Strongly threatening Bxg5. Nd3 2.23/20 *(18...exf3± 1.59/18 19.Bxf3 Nd7)* 19.Bxd3 exd3 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.Qxd3 1-0 (62) Perez,M (2417)-Popadic,D (2157) Chess.com INT 2021]

14...a6 15.Na3 Nf6 16.c4 0.07/19

[16.Be1± 0.52/12]

16...f4 17.Nb1 -0.38/18

[17.f3= 0.06/11 is more appropriate.]

17...Qe8 18.Nc3 Qg6 Prevents Bd3. Threatening ...Bh3. **19.Kh1 Bf5 20.Ra3 h5 21.Na4 Qh7** -0.29/13

[21...Rae8∓ -0.68/18]

22.Nb6= Rad8 23.Bc1 Kg8 -0.39/16

[23...Rf7∓ -0.75/8]

24.Qb3 -1.00/11

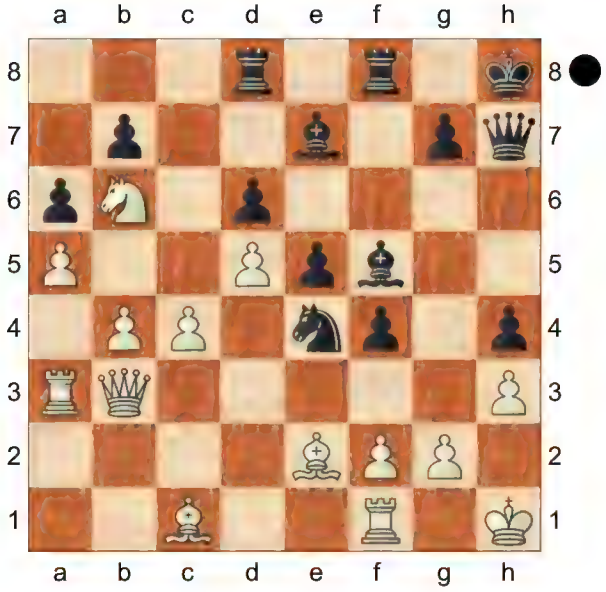
[24.f3∓ -0.39/16]

24...h4 -0.32/16

[24...Rf7∓ -1.00/11]

25.h3!∓ Kh8 26.Re1 Ne4 27.Rf1 -0.88/18

[27.Kg1= -0.08/11]



27...Rf6 -0.40/19

[27...Ng3+!∓ -0.88/18 28.fxg3 hxg3 29.Bxf4 exf4 30.Rxf4 g5 *(30...Bxh3? 31.Rxf8+ Bxf8 32.Qxg3-+)*]

28.Bd3 Ng5

[28...Qg6 is interesting. 29.Qc2 Re8 30.Qe2 Rf7]

29.f3 Nf7 0.72/19

[29...Rf7= -0.14/18 remains equal.]

30.Bxf5 Qxf5 31.Qd3 Qg5 1.46/19

[31...Nh6± 0.55/17]

32.Bd2 0.42/12

[32.Rc3± 1.46/19]

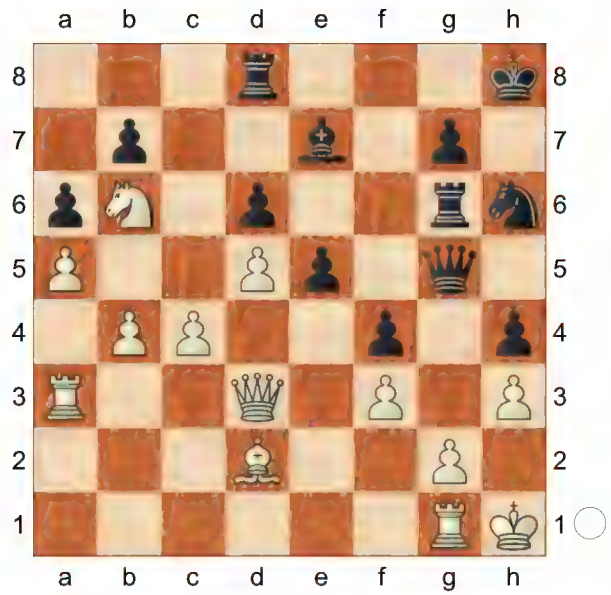
32...Rg6 1.53/18

[Black should try 32...Nh6!± 0.42/12]

33.Rg1↑ Keeping Black busy. Active counter play! **33...Nh6** 1.53/9

[⌓33...Qh5 0.97/10]

(Diagram)



34.Be1! Bxh4! would now be deadly.
34...Nf5 0.65/12
[Better is 34...Qh5± 1.53/16 35.Rc3 e4 36.Qxe4 Bf6]
35.Bf2± Rh6 1.21/16
[35...Ng3+? 36.Bxg3 hxg3 37.Rc3+-]
[⌓35...Qh5 0.81/11]
36.Kh2 0.81/11
[White should play 36.Ra2 1.21/16]
36...Ng3± 37.Qc2 e4 1.57/20 **38.fxe4 Bf6** 2.21/22
[38...Re8± 1.57/20 keeps fighting. 39.Rf3 Bd8]
39.Rf3 Be5 2.91/17 This costs Black the game.
[39...Re8± 1.43/19]
40.c5+- dxc5 41.bxc5 Qg6 42.Nc4 1.76/16
[⌓42.d6 3.50/17]
42...Bb8? 3.27/4
[42...Rxd5 1.76/16 43.Re1 Bb8]
43.d6 Nxe4 4.65/21
[⌓43...Qxe4 3.27/17 44.Qxe4 Nxe4 45.Rxf4 Nxd6 46.cxd6 *(46.Nxd6 Rhxd6 47.cxd6 Bxd6+-* Pin *)* 46...Rhxd6]
44.Re1 Ng5 45.Qxg6 Nxf3+ 46.gxf3 White wants to mate with Re8+.
46...Rxg6 47.Bxh4
[Don't take 47.Re7 Kh7 48.Bxh4 Ba7+-]
47...Rf8 8.86/24
[47...Rdxd6 3.39/20 48.Nxd6 *(48.cxd6 Bxd6 49.Bf2 Rh6+-)* 48...Bxd6 49.cxd6 Rxd6]
48.d7 White is clearly winning. **48...Bc7**
49.Re8 Kg8 50.Be7 Pin **50...Rgf6**
51.Rc8 Pin.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.54.
Mistake: White=7
Black=16
Inaccurate: White=3
Black=2
OK: White=12
Black=7
Best: White=2
Black=1
Strong: White=1 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Sevian,Samuel 2687**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu 2690**
Airthings Masters Div 3 W rapid (6.3)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 13.g3 a5 14.Bg2 g6 Nowadays more popular than 14...Bg5. Heutzutage beliebter als 14...Lg5. The position is equal. **15.0-0**
[15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.0-0 h5 17.h4 Bg4 18.Qd2 Rfb8 19.b3 a4 20.f3 Bd7 21.Rfd1 Be8 22.Kh2 Kg7

23.Qe1 Qe7 24.Rd3 Ra6 25.Rad1 axb3 26.axb3 Ra2 27.R1d2 Rba8 28.Qe3 Qa7 29.Qe2 Rxc2 Kamalidenova,M (2350)-Divya,D (2389) Asian Continental (Women) op 20th 2023 (8) 0-1]

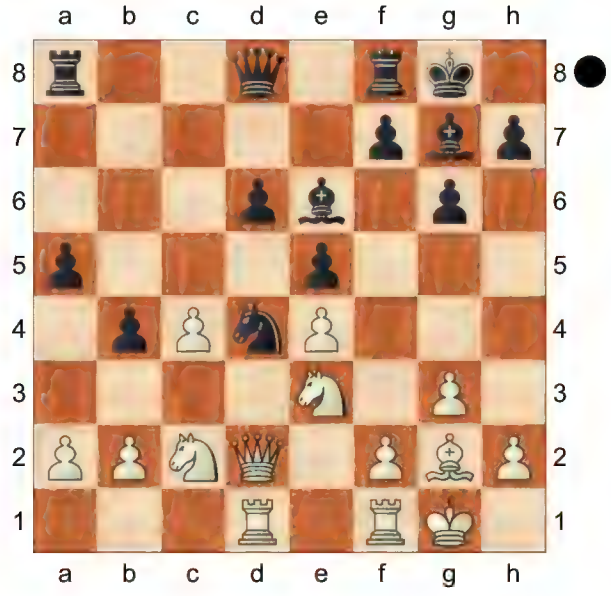
15...Bg7 16.Qd2N

[16.b3 Be6 17.Qd3 Complete open Sicilian 1-29. Chess Position Trainer]

[16.Qd3 Be6 17.a3 bxa3 18.Qxa3 Qb8 19.Rfd1 Ra7 20.b3 Rb7 21.Rab1 Nd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Bf1 h5 24.Bd3 h4 25.Qxa5 Rxb3 26.Qd2 Bxd5 27.exd5 Bf6 28.Qc2 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Qa7 30.Qd2 Kg7 Sevian,S (2642)-Caruana,F (2828) USA-ch 63rd Saint Louis 2019 (1) ½-½]

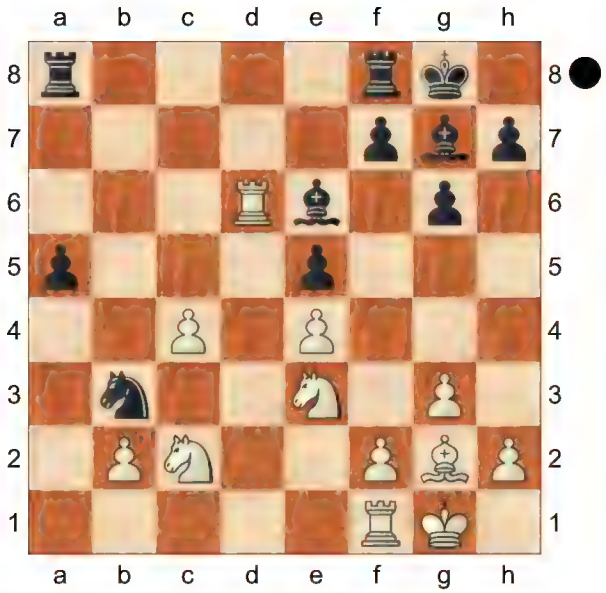
16...Be6 17.Rfd1N

[Vorgänger: 17.Rad1 Nd4 18.Nde3 -1.14/10 *(18.Nxd4*= 0.00/12 remains equal. *exd4 19.b3 Bxd5 20.exd5)*



18...b3!∓ 19.axb3 Nxb3 20.Qxd6 Qxd6 21.Rxd6

(Diagram)



Rfb8! 22.Rb1 a4 23.Rd3 0-1 (48) Rogic,D (2492)-Nguyen,T (2577) Tornelo INT 2021]

17...Qb8 18.b3 Ra7 19.h4 h5 20.Qe3 Nd4 21.Nxd4 exd4 22.Qd3 Bxd5 23.exd5 a4 24.Re1 Re8 25.Bf3 Bf6 26.Kf1 Kg7 27.Kg2 Qa8 28.Rxe8 Qxe8 29.Rd1 axb3 30.axb3 Ra3 31.Kf1 Qa8 32.Kg2 Qa7 33.Kf1 Qc5 34.Kg2 Ra8 35.Kf1 Qa7 36.Rb1 Qa2 37.Bd1 Qa7 38.Bf3 Qc5 39.Rd1 Ra7 40.Kg2 Ra3 41.Kf1 Qa7 42.Kg2 Bd8 43.Kf1 Bb6 44.Kg2 Bc5 45.Re1 Ra2

[45...Qd7 simplifies 46.Bd1 Qf5 47.Qxf5 gxf5 48.Re2 Ra1]

46.Bxh5 Deflection **46...gxh5 47.Qf5** Wards off Qd7 **47...f6** Repels Qg5+. ... d3! is the strong threat. **48.Qxh5 Qf7** Wards off Re8 **49.Qg4+ Kh7 50.Qf5+ Kg7 51.Qg4+ Kh7 52.Qf5+ Kg7 53.Qg4+** A balanced but interesting game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless) .

OK: White=22 Black=12

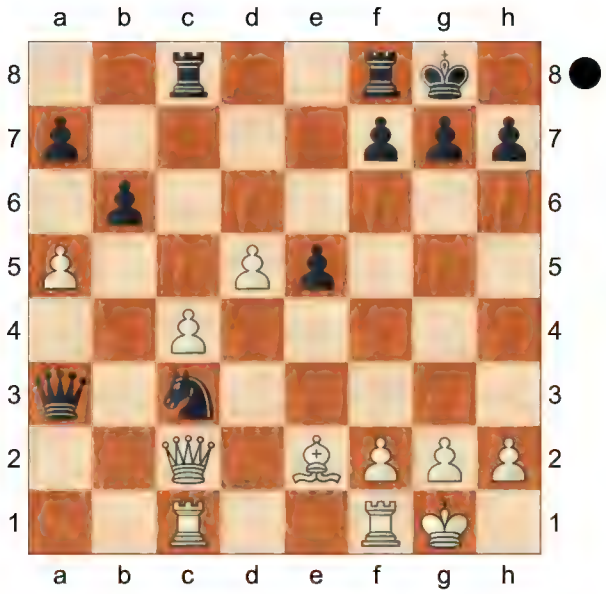
Best: White=2 ---

½-½

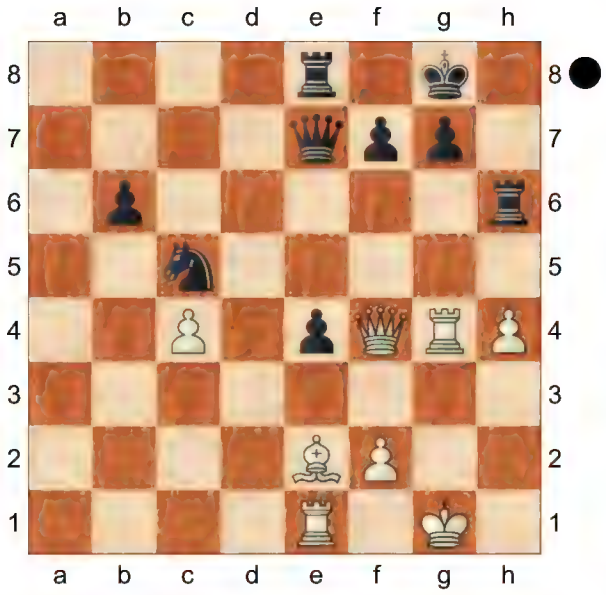
B33

□ **Shirov,Alexei** **2668**
■ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2653**
Prague Cez Trophy m rapid (7) 10.06.23
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4! is more profitable than 9.c4 at the moment.
scheint profitabler als 9.c4. **9...Be7**
10.Bd2 Nd7
[10...0-0 11.Be2 a6 12.Na3 a5 13.Bb5 f5 14.Qe2 Nd7 15.0-0-0 Nc5 16.f4 Bf6 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Be3 b6 19.Nc4 Rb8 20.Nxa5 bxa5 21.Bxc5 Rf7 22.Kb1 f4 23.d6 Bf5 24.Rd5 Bg6 25.d7 Buchicchio,G (2765)-4.Ne4 Nd7 5.Ng5 (2531) Chigorin Memorial 9297 1992 (2.62) 1-0]
11.Bb4N
[11.a5 a6 12.Na3 Nf6 13.Bb4
A) 13...Bg4 14.f3 Bf5 15.Nc4 Rc8 16.Qd2 *(16.c3 0-0 17.Bd3 e4 18.fxe4 Bxe4 19.0-0 Rc7 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Qe2 Rxc4 22.Qxc4 Nd2 23.Qf4 Nxf1 24.Kxf1* Sveshnikov Nb8-Sveshnikov: 10...Nd7 #3 *)* 16...0-0 17.0-0-0 Re8 18.Kb1 Bg6 19.Be2 Sveshnikov Nb8-Sveshnikov: 10...Nd7 #4;
B) 13...b5 14.axb6 Qxb6 15.c3 Bg4 16.f3 Bd7 17.Nc4 Qb8 18.Be2 Sveshnikov Nb8-Sveshnikov: 10...Nd7 #1]
11...0-0 12.Bxd6N
[Predecessor: 12.a5 Nf6 13.Be2 a6 14.Na3 b5 Prevents Nc4 15.axb6 Qxb6 16.c3! Bb7 17.Nc4 Qc7 18.Ra5! Yuffa,D (2567)-Gelfand,B (2663) Wch Rapid Warsaw 2021 (2) 0-1]
12...Bxd6 13.Nxd6 Nf6 14.Nxc8 Rxc8 15.c4 Qb6 16.Be2 Qxb2
[16...Ne4!? 17.0-0□ Qxb2=]
17.0-0 b6 18.a5 Ne4 19.Rb1
Deflection **19...Qa3** White must now prevent ...Nc3. **20.Qc2 Nc3 21.Rbc1**
[21.Ra1!? Qb4 22.axb6 axb6 23.h4=]



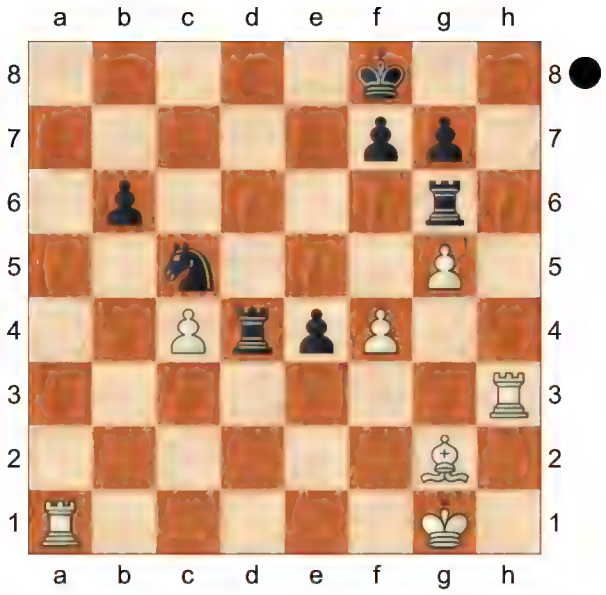
21...Nxd5 Pin **22.axb6 axb6 23.Qf5 Nf6 24.Rfe1** -0.82/24
[24.Rb1!∓ -0.36/22]
24...e4 25.Rb1 -0.99/24
[25.Qb5!∓ -0.59/22]
25...Rc5 26.Qf4 Rc6 27.g4 -1.43/26
[White should try 27.Rb5∓ -0.61/19]
27...h6∓ 28.h4 -1.65/20
[28.Rb5∓ -1.27/21]
28...Qe7-+ 29.Rb5 -2.01/22
[⌓29.Bd1 -1.65/20]
29...Re8 30.g5 Nd7 31.gxh6 -2.52/20
[31.Rd5∓ -1.46/18]
31...Rxh6 ...Nc5! would now be deadly.
32.Rg5 -2.73/24
[⌓32.Rh5 -1.81/20]
32...Nc5 33.Rg4



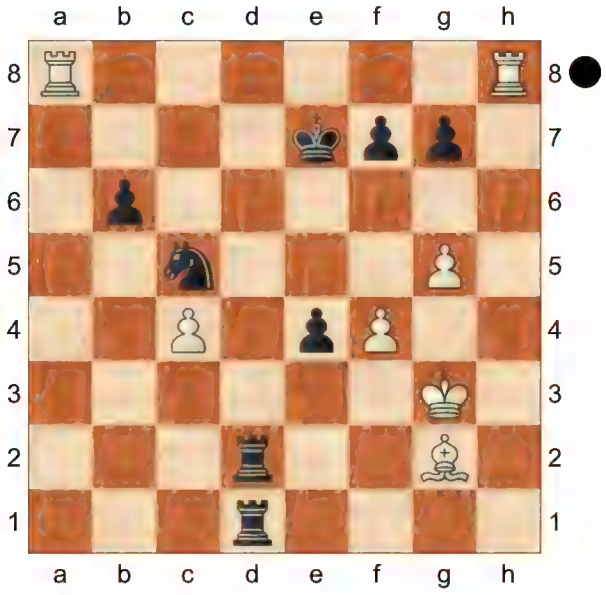
Rf8?? 4.45/20 **34.Qg5??** -2.09/18
[34.Qxh6+- 4.45/20 was the only winning move. f5 35.Rg6]
34...Qxg5 35.hxg5 Rd6 36.Bf1 -2.40/15
[⌓36.Rg3 -1.93/16]
36...Re8 37.Rg3 Kf8 38.Rh3 Ree6 -1.36/10
[38...Red8-+ -1.91/20 39.Bg2 Rd4]
39.Bg2 -2.50/12
[39.Rh8+∓ -1.36/10 Ke7 40.Bh3]
39...Rg6 -1.19/21
[39...g6-+ -2.50/12 has better winning chances. aiming for ...Rd4. 40.Rhe3 Rd4]
40.f4 -1.80/12
[40.Bxe4∓ -1.19/21 might work better. Rde6 *(40...Rxg5+ 41.Kf1∓)* 41.Rhe3 Rxg5+ 42.Kf1]
40...Rd4 Hoping for ...f5! **41.Ra1**

(Diagram)

Rgd6!
[41...Rxc4? perishes. 42.Ra7+-]
42.Rh8+ Ke7 43.Raa8 Rd1+ 44.Kf2? -4.56/10
[44.Kh2∓ -1.40/8]



44...R6d2+ 45.Kg3



Rd3+? -0.44/11
[45...Rg1!-+ -4.37/13 46.Ra7+ Nd7]
46.Kh2 -1.84/8
[White should play 46.Kh4!∓ -0.44/11]
46...Rd8? -0.04/17
[46...R1d2-+ -1.84/8 ...Ke6 is the strong threat. 47.Rhe8+ Kd6 48.Rad8+ Nd7 49.Rxe4 Rf3]
47.Rhxd8= The position is equal.
47...Rxd8 48.Rxd8 Kxd8 Endgame. KB-KN **49.Kg3 Ke7 50.Kf2! f5 51.gxf6+ gxf6 52.Bh3 Nb7 53.Ke3**

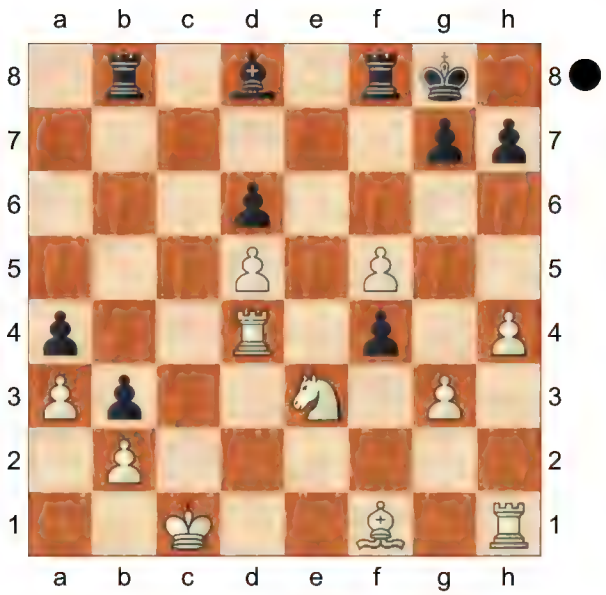
Nd6 54.Kd4 e3 Threatens to win with ... e2. **55.Bg4 Kf7 56.Kxe3 Nxc4+ 57.Kd4 Nb2 58.Kc3 Na4+ 59.Kb4 Nc5 60.Kb5 Nd3 61.f5 Ne5 62.Bh5+ Kg7 63.Kxb6 Kh6 64.Bd1 Kg5 65.Bc2 Nc4+ 66.Kc5 Ne3 67.Bb1 Nxf5 68.Kd5 Ng3 69.Ke6 f5 70.Bxf5 Kf4** Black had all chances to win.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.42.
Loses game: White=1 ---
Missed win: White=1 Black=3
Mistake: White=11 Black=2
Inaccurate: White=3 Black=1
OK: White=25 Black=22
Best: White=3 Black=2
Strong: White=1 Black=1
½-½

B33

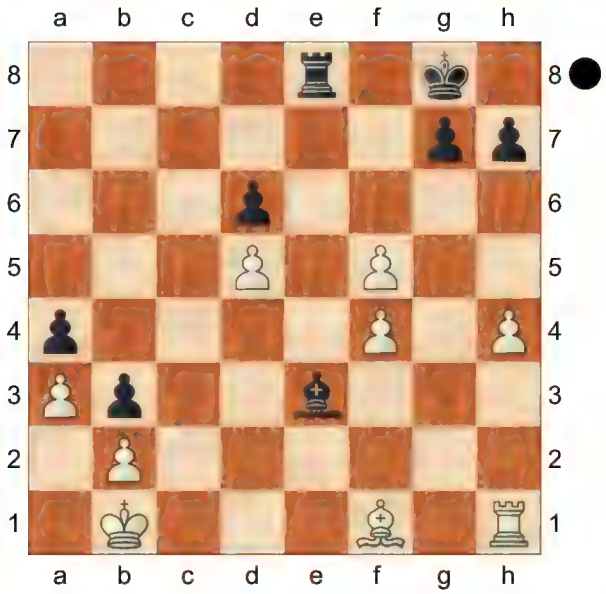
□ **Horvath,Dominik** **2549**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2728**
AUT-chT 2324 (10.2) 23.03.2024
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 13.h4 a5 The position is equal. **14.g3 Be6 15.Qd3**
[15.Bh3 Rb8 16.Qd3 a4 17.b3 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Na5 19.0-0 Qe8 20.Ne3 Bd8 21.Nf5 Rb6 22.Qe3 g6 23.Qh6 Bf6 24.Rab1 axb3 25.axb3 Qd8 26.Rfc1 Re8 27.Ne3 Bg7 28.Qg5 Rb8 29.Nc4 Nb7 Deslandes, P (2782)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2672) 72/125 Budapest 1998 (5) 1-0]
[15.Qd2 Rc8 16.Nce3 Nd4 17.0-0-0 g6 18.Kb1 h5 19.f4 Bg7 20.Bd3 f5 21.Rhf1 a4 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.Qxb4 Rb8 24.Qe7 Qa5 25.exf5 Rf7 26.fxe6 Rxe7 27.Nxe7+ Kh7 28.Bxg6+ Kh8 29.N7d5 a3 Nepomniachtchi,I-Yu,Y Capablanca Memorial, Havana 2015 0-1]
15...a4N
[15...Nd4 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Rd1 9.g4 b5 10.g5 b4 11. ♘e2 Anand-Kasparov 2002]
16.Nce3 b3 White should prevent ...a3.
17.a3 -0.42/21
[17.Be2= -0.04/20]
17...Qa5+ 18.Qd2 Qxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Bd8 20.Rd1 Rb8 0.00/19
[20...g6∓ -0.40/20 deserves consideration.]
21.Kc1 -0.47/19
[21.f4= 0.00/19]
21...Nd4∓ 22.f4 -0.82/21
[22.Bd3∓ -0.46/21]
22...f5∓ 23.exf5 Bxd5 -0.37/21
[Reject 23...Bxf5 24.Rxd4 exd4 25.Nxf5 Rxf5 26.Bh3 Rxd5 27.cxd5= *(27.Be6+ Kf8=)*]
[Black should play 23...Nxf5∓ -0.91/24 24.Nxf5 Bxf5 *(24...Rxf5 25.Bh3±)*]
24.cxd5∓ exf4 Black is more active.
25.Rxd4 -1.98/22
[25.gxf4∓ -0.93/20 only move. Re8 *(25...Nxf5 26.Nxf5 Rxf5 27.Rd4∓)* 26.Rxd4 Rxe3 27.Kd2]

(Diagram)



25...Bb6!-+
[Resist 25...fxe3 26.Bd3]
26.Re4 -3.12/21
[26.Rxa4 -2.21/21 might work better. Bxe3+ 27.Kb1 fxg3 28.Bh3]
26...Bxe3+ 27.Kb1 Rbe8
[27...Rxf5 28.gxf4 Bxf4 29.Rxa4∓]
28.Rxe8 Rxe8 29.gxf4



Bg1! Back Rank **30.Be2 Rxe2 31.Rxg1 Kf7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.08 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=5
Black=2
Inaccurate: White=4
Black=1
OK: White=5
Black=12
Best: ---
Black=2
0-1

B33
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2760**
■ **Rapport,Richard** **2764**
Candidates Tournament (11) 30.06.2022
[GM Vladimir Georgiev,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Rb8 This is the last trend and maybe the most precise way for Black to equalize. I like it because it limits White's options. **12.Nc2**
[12.h4? doesn't make any sense here, because Black can take the pawn]
12...Bg5 We delayed castling for two moves, but White can't use this in his favour **13.g3**
[13.a3 This is an interesting move which Wesley So and Shankland tried recently
A) 13...Ne7 Is an interesting alternative, tried by Vladimir Kramnik against Kasparov
A1) 14.Ncb4 was an interesting alternative: Nxd5 15.Nxd5 *(15.exd5 Qb6 16.a4 0-0 17.axb5 axb5 18.g3 e4* 1/2 (25)-1/2 Lanka,Z-Jelen, I/ Ljubljana 1994 (31) *)* 15...0-0 16.Bd3!? Be6 17.Bc2;

A2) 14.Nxe7 Qxe7! 1/2 (97)-1/2 (97) Polgar,J (2700) -Kramnik,V (2807) Wijk aan Zee 2003 CBM 093;

B) 13...a5 Kramnik tried to insist for b5-b4 break, but failed to equalize in the game: 14.Bd3 Ne7 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe2 0-0 17.0-0 Bd7 18.b4 axb4 19.Nxb4 Rfc8 20.c4± 1/2-1/2 Kasparov, G-Kramnik,V/Frankfurt (rapid) 2000 (35);

C) 13...0-0 14.h4 Bh6 15.g4 Bf4 I like this position for Black. White is somewhat overextended and Black has a lot of tactical possibilities. 16.Qf3 Be6 *(16...Bb7* I prefer 16... Be6, but Jeffrey played quite interesting and get a good position *17.g5 Re8 18.Nxf4 exf4 19.0-0-0 b4 20.axb4 Nxb4 21.Nxb4 Bxe4 22.Qxf4 Rxb4 23.Bd3 Bxh1 24.Qxb4 Bf3=* 1-0 (52) So,W (2770) -Xiong,J (2709) Lichess.org INT 2020*)* 17.Nxf4 Qf6 remember this idea *(17...exf4* is possible too *18.Qxf4 a5⩲)* 18.g5 Qxf4 19.Qxf4 exf4 20.Nb4 Nxb4 21.axb4± Mamedyarov didn't fully equalize but manages to make a draw 1/2 (55)-1/2 (56) So,W (2778) - Mamedyarov,S (2762) chess24. com INT 2021]

[13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4 Nxb4

A) 15.cxb4 0-0 16.Rxa4 a5 I prefer to keep the light square bishop at its initial place as much as possible 17.h4 Bh6 18.b5 Bd7 *(18...Kh8 19.Be2 Be6 20.b4 axb4 21.Nxb4 Bd7=* ½- (84) ½ (84) Dominguez Perez,L (2758) - Radjabov,T (2765) chess24.com INT 2021 *)* 19.Nc3 d5! 20.exd5 e4! very nice play all over the board. The material doesn't really matter here. Black's bishop pair fully compensate it 21.Be2 e3 22.f4 g6 23.h5 Bg7 *(23...g5!)* 24.h6 Bh8 25.d6 Rb6 26.Rxa5± 1-0 (47) Dominguez Perez,L (2758) -Xiong, J (2709) Lichess. org INT 2020;

B) 15.Nxb4 Bd7 this move leads to more or less forced draw after: 16.Bxa6 Qa5 17.Qxd6 Rb6 18.Qd3 Be6 19.0-0 Be7 20.Bc4 Bxb4 21.Bxe6 Rxe6 22.cxb4 Qxb4 23.Qc2 0-0 24.Rxa4 Qb7= 1/2 (43)-1/ 2 (43) Grischuk,A (2775)-Caruana,F (2819) Stavanger 2019]

13...0-0 14.Bg2

[14.h4 Bh6

A) 15.Bh3 Bb7 *(15...Be6!?)* 16.0-0

A1) 16...Ne7 looks very logical here 17.Ncb4 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 g6 19.Qd3 f5

A1a) 20.exf5 gxf5 21.Bxf5 *(21.f4 Kh8∓; 21.Rad1 f4 22.Qe2 Qe8∓)* 21...Rxf5 22.Qxf5 Bxd5∓;

A1b) 20.Rad1 f4 Black has very good attacking chances;

A2) 16...a5;

B) 15.g4 Bf4 16.Qf3 Be6 *(16...h5 17.Bh3 b4 18.c4 b3 19.axb3 hxg4 20.Bxg4 Bxg4 21.Qxg4 Rxb3 22.Rg1 Bh6 23.Nde3 Ne7 24.Qh5 Kh7 25.Ng4 Rxb2 26.Nce3 Qb6 27.Kf1 Rb1+ 28.Kg2 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Qd4 30.Rxa6 Qxe4+ 31.Kh2* Mierins,E (2147)-Ingebretsen,J (2340) Kragero op 2023 (9) 0-1 *)* 17.Nxf4 exf4 18.Qxf4 b4

white King is to weak. Black should be better]

14...a5 The position is equal. **15.0-0 Ne7 16.Nce3N**

[16.f4 -0.51/14 16.Nce3 0.14 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qd2 Bh6∓ 0-1 (50) Andreikin,D (2400) -Carlsen, M (2385) Budva 2003 19.Ne3 Qb6 20.Kh1 Qc5 21.b4 Qc7 22.Rad1 Rbc8 23.bxa5 Qxa5 24.Qxd6 exf4 25.gxf4 Qxa2 26.Qe5 g6 27.Qxb5 Rxc3 28.Nd5 Bh3 29.Rg1 Rc2 30.Qf1 Rf2 31.Qxf2 Qxf2 32.Bxh3 Bxf4 33.Rg2 Qh4 Model Games Sveshnikov-Game #4: Andreikin,D 34.Rg4 Qxh3 35.Rxf4 Rb8 36.Rf2 Rb2 37.Rdf1 Qd3 38.Nf6+ Kg7 39.Kg2 Qd4 40.Ne8+ Kf8 41.Rxb2 Qxb2+ 42.Rf2 Qxf2+ 43.Kxf2 Kxe8 44.Kf3 Ke7 45.Kf4 Ke6 46.Kg5 Ke5 47.h4 Kxe4 48.Kf6 Kf4 Chapter Tour-Games Chapter tour]

16...Be6

[16...Bxe3!? 17.Nxe3 Be6 18.Qd2 Qb6=]

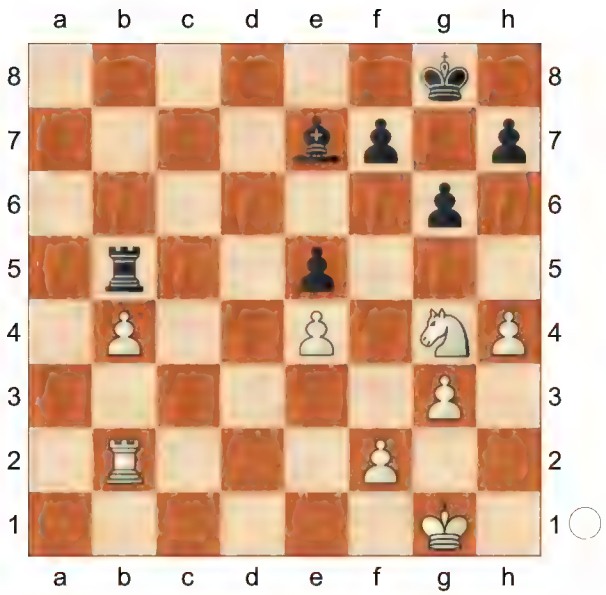
17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Nf5 Qd8 19.Qxd6 g6 20.Qxd8 Rfxd8 21.h4 Bf6 22.Ne3 Rd2 23.b3 a4 Black has a tremendous compensation for the sacrificing pawn **24.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 axb3 26.axb3 Bxb3 27.Rb1 Ba2 28.Rb2 Be6 29.Bf3 Be7**

[29...Bd7 is the safest choice]

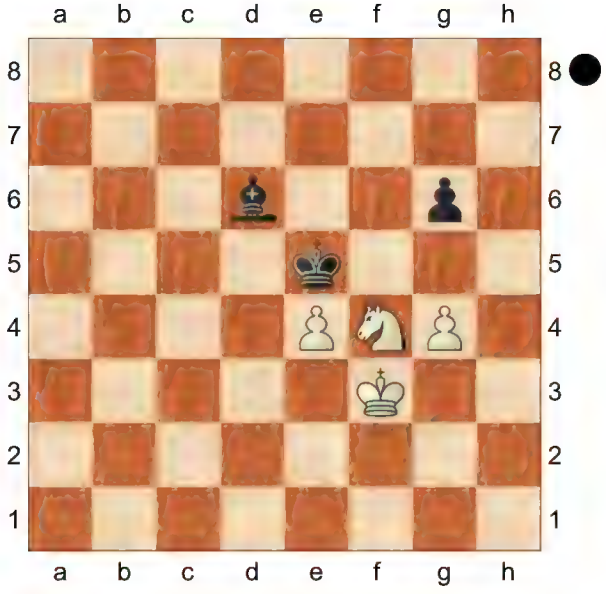
30.Bg4 Bxg4 31.Nxg4= Endgame. KRB-KRN **31...b4 32.cxb4** And now b5! would win. **32...Rb5**

(Diagram)

33.h5! Rxb4 34.Rxb4 Bxb4 35.hxg6 hxg6 36.Nxe5 KB-KN **36...Bc3 37.Nd3 f5 38.f3 Kf7 39.Kg2 Kf6 40.g4 Bd4 41.Kg3 Be3 42.Nb2 Kg5 43.Nd3 Kf6**



44.Nb4 Ke5 45.Nc6+ Ke6 46.Na5 Kf6 47.Nc4 Bc1 48.Nb6 Ke6 49.Nc4 Kf6 50.Na5 Kg5 51.Nc6 Bf4+ 52.Kh3 Kf6 53.Kg2 Be3 54.Kf1 Bb6 55.Ke2 Ke6 56.Nb4 Bc7 57.Nd5 Bd6 58.Ne3 fxe4 59.fxe4 Ke5 60.Kf3 Kf6 61.Nd1 Bc7 62.Nf2 Bd6 63.Nh3 Ke5 64.Nf4



Threatens to win with g5! **64...Kf6 65.Nd3 Bc7 66.Kg2 Kg5 67.Kf3 Kf6 68.Ne1 Bd6 69.Nc2 Ke5 70.Ne3** Hoping for Nc4+. **70...Kf6 71.Nd5+ Kg5 72.Ne3 Kf6 73.Nc4 Bc7 74.Nd2 Bd6 75.Nb3 Bc7 76.Nc1 Bd6 77.Ne2**

Bc7 78.Ng1 Bd6 79.Nh3 Ke5 80.Nf4 Kf6 81.Nd3 Bc7 82.Kg2 Kg5 83.Kh3 Bd6 84.e5 Bc7 85.Kg3 Bb8! 86.Kf3 Bc7! 87.Ke4 Kxg4 88.e6 Bd8 89.Nb4 Kg5 90.Nd5 Bf6 91.e7 Bxe7! 92.Nxe7 Kh5 93.Nd5 g5 94.Kf5 g4 95.Nf6+ Kh4 96.Nxg4 An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless) .
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=23
Black=37
Best: ---
Black=1
Strong: ---
Black=3
½-½

B33

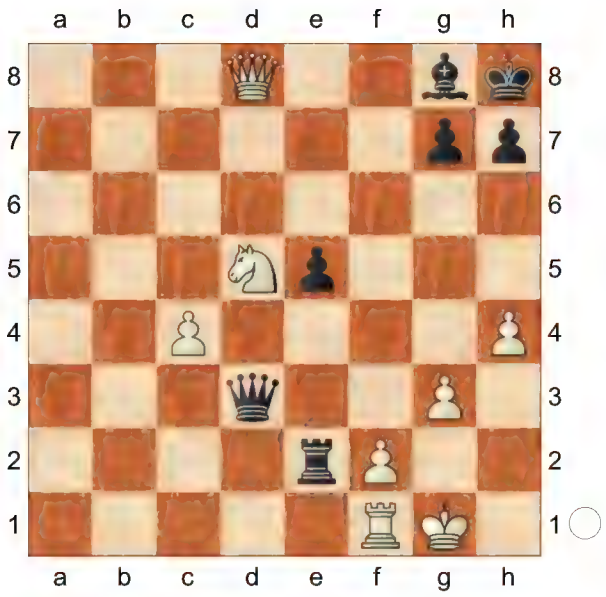
□ **Kovalev,Vladislav** **2579**
■ **Predke,Alexandr** **2668**

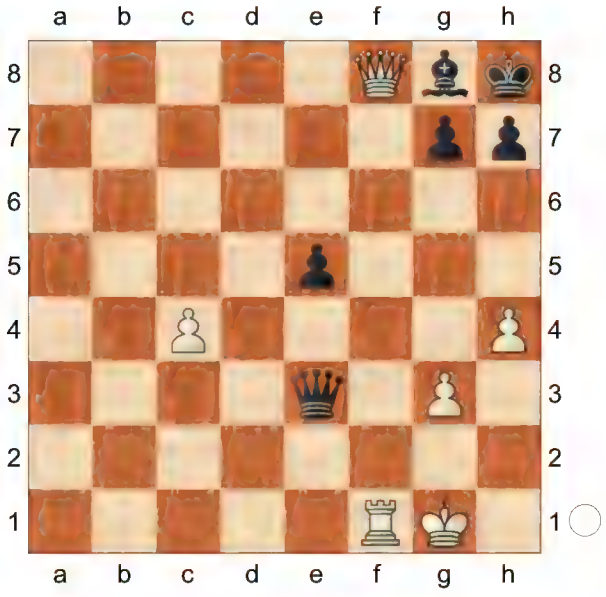
Chessable Masters Play In rapid (5) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 Kh8 15.Bc4 f5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.0-0 White is slightly better. **17...a5 18.Nde3!?** A dynamic duo of knights. A promising side line.
Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
18...Bg6 19.Bd3N
[Vorgänger: 19.Bd5 Be8 *(19...Rc8 20.Qa1 Bd3 21.Rd1 Qf6 22.f3 Be2 23.Rd2 Bb5 24.Bxc6 Bxc6 25.Rxa5 Qg6 26.Kh1 e4 27.f4 Bxf4 28.Re2 d5 29.Nd4 Qh5 30.Qg1 Rf6 31.g3 Bxe3 32.Rxe3 Qf7 33.Ra1 Bd7 34.Ree1* Nyberg,U-Forssen,E SWE-ch40 corr 1980 0-1 *)* 20.Rc4 Ra6! 21.Qg4 Qf6? 2.20/13 *(21...h6=* -0.26/8 and Black has nothing to worry. *)* 22.Qc8+- Ra7 2.97/15 *(22...Rb6±* 1.59/19 was necessary. *)* 23.Bxc6+- Bg6 24.Qh3 Bd3 25.Be4 Nadeau,R (1998)-Jodoin,P (1913) Montreal inv reserve 1980 (4) 1-0]
19...Be8 20.Be4 Rb8 21.Ra2 Ne7 22.Qd3 Bf7 23.c4 Qb6 24.g3 Rfd8 0.57/19
[24...Be8= 0.04/19]
25.Rfa1±
[25.Bxh7? too greedy. g6 26.Qd1 Kxh7-+]
25...Bg8 26.h4 Bxe3 27.Nxe3 Nc6 28.Bxc6 0.21/9
[28.Qd1!± 0.63/24 was preferrable.]
28...Qxc6= 29.Rxa5
[29.b3 simplifies Qb6 30.Rxa5 Qxb3 31.Qxb3 Rxb3 32.c5]
29...Rxb2 30.Rxe5 dxe5 31.Qxd8 Qf3 Wards off Qf8 **32.Rf1 Re2 33.Nd5 Qd3** 0.91/14
[33...Rc2= 0.17/13 keeps the balance.]

(Diagram)

34.Qc8!→ White attacks with force.
34...Rc2? 3.29/10 A mistake that costs the game.
[34...h6± 0.90/11]
35.Ne3+- Re2 5.53/14
[35...Rd2 2.84/11 36.c5 Qd7]
36.Qf8 2.44/11
[⌓36.Rd1 5.53/14 Qc3 37.Kf1]
36...Rxe3 37.fxe3 aiming for c5.
37...Qxe3+? 4.14/11
[37...Qxc4 2.41/10 38.Qf5 Qd5]





38.Qf2! Qxf2+ 39.Kxf2 Bxc4 Endgame. KR-KB **40.Rc1 Bg8 41.Ke3 h6 42.Ke4 Bb3 43.Kxe5 Kg8 44.Rc7 Ba2 45.Ra7 Bb3 46.Rb7 Bc4 47.Rc7 Ba2 48.Kf5 Bd5 49.g4** Strongly threatening g5. **49...Ba2 50.Rc1 Bd5 51.g5** g6 is the strong threat. **51...hxg5 52.hxg5 Kf8 53.Rc8+ Ke7 54.Kg6** Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.67.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=2 Black=4
Inaccurate: White=2 Black=3
OK: White=8 Black=6
Best: White=2 Black=1
Strong: White=2 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Pichot,Alan** **2637**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2745**
MrDodgy Online Inv Finals 3rd blitz (2.6)
[Ris, Robert, MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nab1 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Bc4 13.Nd2 is not played anymore. 13.Sd2 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt. **13...Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 15.c3 bxc3!?** Ris,Robert : '?!' '?!' A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
[15...Be6 The main move. See Nasuta-Ris]
[15...Rb8 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Nxb4 Rxb4 18.b3 The rook is badly placed on b4. f5?! 0.66/11 *(18...Be6 19.Na3! Qe7* Gromotka-Luey, ICCF email 2016 *20.Qf3±; 18...Be6=* 0.23/23 *)* 19.Nc3± f4 1.10/13 *(19...a5±* 0.65/14 feels stronger. *)* 20.f3!± Bh4 1.61/10 *(20...a5±* 1.03/11 *)*
A) Also in the following game Black's attack didn't lead anywhere: 21.Qd2 0.84/11 21.a5 1.65 Rb8 22.Rfd1 Rf6 23.Nd5 Wards off

Qb6+ Rh6 24.Rac1 Qe8 1.05/12 *(24...g5±* 0.64/9 should be considered. *)* 25.Bf1 Bd8 26.a5 Bd7 1.56/10 *(⌓26...Qh5* 0.82/8 *27.h3 Qh4* Decoy *)* 27.b4± Qh5 28.h3 Rg6 29.Kh1! Be6? 4.47/9 *(29...h6* 1.66/9 *30.Rc3 Rg3)* 30.Nxf4 1-0 Boyer-Bellahcene, Aix en Provence 2022;

B) 21.Nd5!+- Rb8 22.Qd2 0.81/11 *(22.a5!+-; 22.a5!+-* 1.64/12 *)* 22...Bg3? 1.95/10 This sacrifice doesn't work: *(22...a5* Slows down White's initiative. *23.b4!±; 22...g5±* 0.81/11 *)* 23.hxg3+- fxg3 24.Ne3 Qh4 25.Rfd1! Qh2+ 26.Kf1 Threatens to win with Ke2! Bh3? 3.64/11 *(26...Bb7* 2.10/11 keeps fighting. *)* 27.Ke1!+- The refutation. *(27.gxh3??* -6.01/11 27.Ke1 1.25 *Rxf3+ 28.Ke1* aiming for Qxh2. *g2 29.Nxg2 Qg3+ 30.Ke2 Qf2#)* 27...Qg1+ 28.Ke2 Qf2+ 29.Kd3 Bxg2 30.Qxf2 gxf2 31.Nxg2 Rxf3+ 32.Ke2 1-0 Almeida Toledano-Romon Poves, Sabadell 2007.]

16.bxc3N -0.03/12

[Vorgänger: 16.Nbxc3! Rb8 17.Rb1 Trying to get in b2-b4 at once.

A) 17...f5 18.b4 f4? 0.91/7 A positional error. Black's attack won't get off the ground. *(*Relatively better is *18...fxe4!* though after *19.Nxe4 Nd4 20.Qd3 Bf5 21.f3±* White is in good shape thanks to the control over the light-squares.*; 18...fxe4±* 0.43/12 *19.b5 axb5 20.axb5 Nd4)* 19.f3!± Nd4 1.62/10 *(19...Bh4±* 1.02/11 might work better. *20.Qd3 a5)* 20.Ne2+- Ne6 21.a5 Qe8 2.52/8 *(⌓21...Nc7* 1.89/10 *22.Nec3 Qd7)* 22.Qd3+- Black is lost on the queenside in Tosic-Miljkovic, Valjevo 2011;

B) 17...a5 18.Nb5?! Too fast jumping in to the weak square b5, while from c3 the knight retains control over the centre (both the d5 and e4 square). *(18.Kh1!? f5 19.f3 Be6 20.Nb5±)* 18...f5 19.exf5 0.00/11 *(19.f3 Ne7⇄; 19.Qe2±* 0.40/14 *)* 19...Bxf5= 20.Bd3 e4 21.Bc2 Megaranto-Nouri, Manila 2008 Ne5 *(21...Qd7⇄)* 22.Nd4 ½-½ (37) Megaranto,S (2532)-Nouri,H (2363) Manila 2008]

[16.Nbxc3± 0.42/10 Rb8 17.Rb1]

16...f5

[16...Na5!? 17.Na3 *(17.Ba2?! Nb7∓)* 17...f5⇄]

17.exf5

[17.Nd2!?]

17...Bxf5 18.Na3 I dislike the knight on a3. **18...e4**

[18...Ne7!? 19.Nc2 Be6 20.Nce3 -0.57/21 *(20.Nxe7?* -2.70/20 20.Ba2 -0.21 *Bxc4-+; 20.Ba2=* -0.17/14 *)* 20...Bxe3∓ 21.Nxe3 *(21.fxe3?* -1.66/24 21.Nxe3 -0.55 *Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Rc8!∓)* 21...d5∓]

19.Nc2 Ne5 20.Be2 Be6

[20...Nf3+!? Spectacular, but not offering Black an advantage. 21.gxf3 exf3

A) 22.Bd3 Bh3 23.Re1 Bf4 24.Nxf4 Qg5+= 25.Kh1 Bg2+ 26.Kg1 Rxf4 *(26...Rxf4!? 27.Ne3□ Bh3+ 28.Kh1 Bg2+ 29.Kg1 Rd8=)* 27.Ne3 Rh4 28.Nf5 Rxh2 29.Kxh2 Qh5+ 30.Kg3 Qg5+ 31.Kh2 Qh5+=;

B) 22.Bxf3 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Rxf3 24.Qe4⇄]

21.Nce3 Nd7 22.a5 Nc5 23.Bc4 Ra7 Threatening ...Qd7! Typical manouvre in the Sveshnikov. **24.Qe2 Raf7 25.Bxa6 Bh4?** 1.23/9

[25...Nb3! 26.Rad1! Qxa5⇄]

[25...Nb3= 0.00/11 keeps the balance. 26.Rad1 Qxa5]

26.g3± Bg5 27.Bc4 Bh3

28.a6? 0.01/16

[28.Ng2!+-]

[28.Ng2!+- 1.68/12]

28...Bxf1= 29.Rxf1 Ra7 0.51/14

[29...Bxe3 30.Qxe3 Qa5= Dodges Ra1]

[29...Bxe3= 0.03/11 30.Qxe3 Qa5]

30.Nb4 Bxe3 1.40/15

[30...Qe8± 0.51/11]

31.Qxe3 0.33/14

[31.Nc6!± 1.40/15 Qa8 32.Nxa7 *(32.fxe3 Rc7±)*]

31...Qc8 32.Rd1± Rd7 33.Bb5? -0.36/8 Allowing Black to breakthrough.

[33.Rb1± 0.41/13]

33...Rdf7∓ 34.Rd2 -1.48/8

[34.Rxd6? too greedy. Rf3 *(34...Rxf2 35.Be2∓)* 35.Qe2 e3 *(35...Rxc3 36.Nd5∓; 35...Qb8 36.Rc6∓)* 36.fxe3 Ne4-+]

[White should try 34.Rf1∓ -0.45/11]

34...Rf3∓ 35.Qe1 e3! 36.fxe3 Ne4 37.Rd4

Ng5 -1.76/18

[37...Nxg3! And now ...Qe6! would win. 38.hxg3? -9.46/25 *(38.Nd5* -3.63/23 *Qf5 39.Nf4)* 38...Qh3-+]

[⌓37...Nxg3 -3.41/20 Strongly threatening ...Qe6! 38.Rf4 *(38.hxg3?* perishes. *Qh3-+)* 38...R3xf4 39.exf4 Nh5]

38.Bc6? -#9/19

[38.Nd5-+ -1.76/18]

38...Nh3+ 39.Kg2 Rf2+ 40.Kh1 Rf1+-+ 0-1

B33

□ **Santos Ruiz,Miguel** **2596**

■ **Theodorou,Nikolas** **2627**

Chessable Masters Play In rapid (1)

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nab1 Ne7

[9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Bc4 Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 15.c3 Be6 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Nbc3 a5 18.b3 Rc8 19.Qe2 Rc5 20.Nxb4 axb4 21.Nb5 Be7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rad1 Qb6 24.Rd2 Nasuta,G (2561)-Ris,R (2457) Erkenschwick 2019 ½-½]

10.Bd3N New and interesting. Theoretisch interessant.

[Vorgänger: 10.Bxf6 -0.04/11 10.Bd3 0.37 gxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Be6 14.Qc6+ Bd7 15.Qb7 Qc8 16.Qxc8+ *(16.Qxb4!? d5 17.Qb3∓)* 16...Bxc8 17.f3 Sosa,T (2544)-Chigaev,M (2617) Alicante Easter op 7th 2023 (7) ½-½]

[10.a3 Bb7 11.Nd2 d5 12.exd5 Nexd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.c4 Qd7 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Qb3 b4 17.Rd1 Rd8 18.Be2 Bxg2 19.Nf3 Bd6 20.a4 Sveshnikov-9...Ne7 10.a3 Bb7 Lifetime Repertoires: s 1. e4 2023]

10...b4 11.Ne2 d5 The position is equal. **12.Nd2 Bb7** 0.76/20

[12...Nxe4= 0.10/23 keeps the balance. 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bxe4 Rb8]

13.Ng3± Qc7 14.0-0 dxe4 0.96/8

[14...Nd7± 0.52/18]

15.Ndxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Threatens to win with Qf3. **16...f6?** 3.29/21

[16...h6± 0.87/10 keeps fighting.]

17.Qh5++- g6 18.Qf3 fxg5 19.Bxb7 Ra7 Black is weak on the light squares **20.Be4 Bg7 21.c3 Rf8 22.Qd1 bxc3 23.Rc1 Qd7 24.Qb3**

[Don't take 24.bxc3?! Qxd1 25.Rfxd1 *(25.Rcxd1 Nf5±)* 25...Nf5 26.Bxf5 gxf5±]

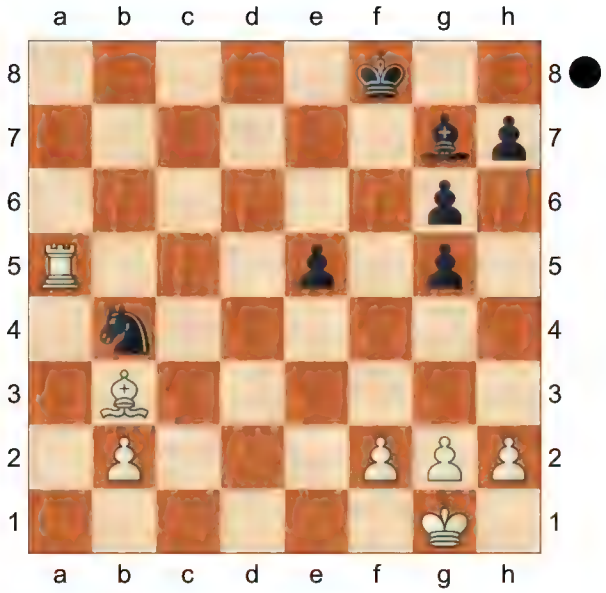
24...Qb5 25.Qxc3 Rd7 26.Bc2 Nd5 27.Qa3 Rf4 Wards off Ba4 **28.Ne4 Qb4** Prevents Nd6+ **29.Qxb4**

[29.Nxg5 Qxa3 30.bxa3 Bh6±]

29...Nxb4 30.Ba4

[30.Nxg5 Nxa2 31.Ra1 Rd2 32.Rxa2 *(32.Ne6 Rb4±)* 32...Rxc2 33.Rxa6 *(33.Nxh7 e4±)* 33...Bf8+-]

Hoping for Rfd1. Pin **30...Rxe4 31.Rc7** Pin **31...Red4 32.Rxd7 Kf8 33.Rc1 Rxd7 34.Bxd7 Nxa2** Endgame. KRB-KBN **35.Rc4 Ke7 36.Ba4 a5 37.Rc7+ Kf8 38.Bb3 Nb4 39.Rf7+ Kg8 40.Ra7+ Kf8 41.Rxa5**



aiming for Ra8+. **41...e4?** 5.59/17

[41...Bf6 3.44/14 might work better. 42.Ra8+ Ke7 43.Ra7+ Kd6]
42.Ra8+ Ke7 43.Ra7+ Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.37.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: --- Black=3
Inaccurate: --- Black=1
OK: White=21 Black=11
Best: White=2 Black=1
1-0

B33

□ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduard 2612**
■ **Zhigalko,Sergei 2572**
Titled Tuesday intern op 21st May Early blitz (4)
[MH]

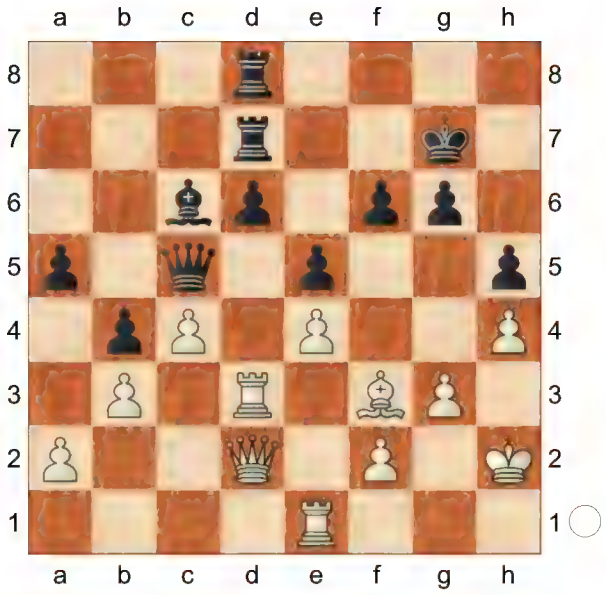
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Be2 a5
The position is equal. **14.0-0 Bg5 15.Bg4!** is now more promising than 15. Qd3. im Vergleich zu 15.Dd3 vielversprechender. **15...Bb7 16.b3!?** An interesting side line.
Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
16...Ne7 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Qd3 Qc7N
[18...Bc6 19.Rfe1 Qb7 20.Bf3 Qb6 21.Rad1 Rfd8 22.Ne3 a4 23.Nd5 Qc5 24.Be2 axb3 25.axb3 Rd7 26.Qg3 Bd8 27.Rd3 Rda7 28.Red1 Ra1 29.Kf1 h6 30.h4 Bb7 31.Ke1 R8a2 32.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 33.Bd1 Frolov,A (2535)-Maksimenko,A (2440) 59/(260) Ukraine 1993]
19.g3N -0.38/23
[Vorgänger: 19.Rfd1 Qc6 20.Bf3 Rfd8 21.Re1 Qc5 22.Ne3 Bxe3 23.Qxe3 a4 24.Bd1 Bc6 25.Bc2 axb3 26.Bxb3 Lane,T (1943)-Michelle, C (2164) Dulles Cherry Blossom op 11th 2024 (1) 0-1]
[19.a3= 0.00/19 feels stronger.]
19...Qc5 20.Rad1 Rad8 21.h4 Bh6 22.Rfe1 g6 23.Ne3
[23.Bh3 is interesting. f5 24.exf5 Qc6 25.Kh2]
23...Bxe3 24.Rxe3 h5 25.Bf3 Bc6 1.04/18
[25...Rfe8= 0.30/21]
26.Qd2± Rd7 27.Rd3 Rfd8 1.70/19
[27...Kh7± 0.96/19]
28.Re1 1.03/16
[28.Qh6+- 1.70/19]
28...Kg7 1.93/16
[28...Rf8± 1.03/16]
29.Kh2 0.46/15
[29.g4!+- 1.93/16]
29...f6 1.84/13
[Better is 29...Rh8± 0.46/15]

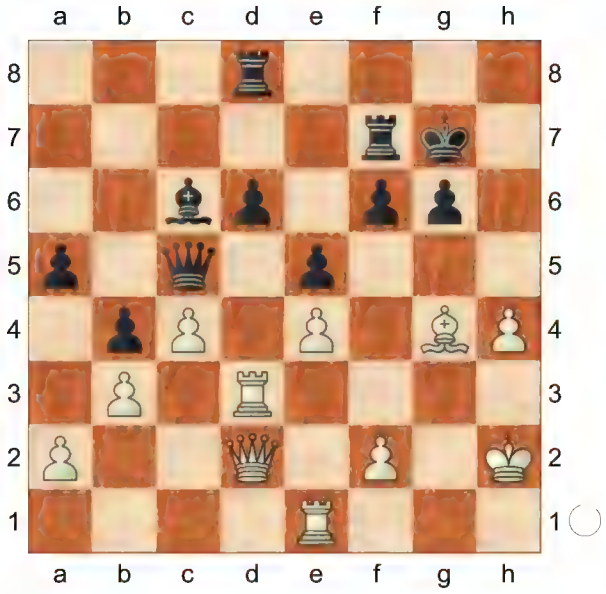
(Diagram)

30.g4!+- hxg4 2.04/20
[30...Rf7± 1.24/16 was necessary.]
31.Bxg4 Rf7

(Diagram)

32.h5!
[32.Be6 Re7 33.Bg4 Ree8=]
32...Rh8 2.46/21
[32...f5 33.exf5 Rf6 34.hxg6





(34.fxg6? Rxf2+ 35.Kg3 Rxd2-+)
34...Rh8+ 35.Kg3]
[32...Rff8 1.97/21 might work better.
33.hxg6 Bb7]
33.Rxd6 f5? 6.27/19
[33...a4 2.57/16 34.Kg3 Rh6
35.bxa4 *(35.Be6 Rxh5 36.Bxf7 Kxf7±)* 35...Bxa4]
34.Rxg6+ Kf8 35.exf5 Rxf5 36.Bxf5 Rxh5+ 37.Bh3 Qe7 Repels Qd8+
38.Rg3 7.65/14
[⌓38.Rxc6 #17/17 Rxh3+ 39.Kxh3 Qh7+ 40.Kg2 *(40.Qh6+ Qxh6+ 41.Rxh6 e4 42.Rxe4 Kf7 43.Ra6 Kf8 44.Ra7 a4 45.Kg3 a3 46.Re3 Kg8 47.Re8#)* 40...Qg7+ 41.Kf1 Kg8 42.Qd5+ Qf7 43.Qxe5 *(43.Qxa5 Qf5 44.Qd5+ Kh7 45.Rxe5 Qh3+ 46.Qg2 Qxg2+ 47.Kxg2 Kg7 48.Ra5 Kg8 49.Rc7 Kh8 50.Ra8#; 43.Rg6+ Kf8 44.Qd6+ Qe7 45.Rf6+* Deflection *Kg8 46.Qxe7 Kh8 47.Rf8#)*]
38...e4 39.Qf4+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.96.
Mistake: White=3
Black=7
Inaccurate: ---
Black=2
OK: White=7
Black=9
Best: White=2
Black=1
Strong: White=2 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Giri,Anish** **2761**
■ **Tari,Aryan** **2654**
Norway Chess 10th (8) 09.06.2022
[Giri,Anish, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
RR: 'Inf 103/(89)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4** London system has not become entirely mainstream, but is no longer that rare of a guest at the highest level.
3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5
This is one of the many many ways to play against the London system, but somehow I faced it on multiple occasions already. I guess it is an easy system for Black to play, which is why

my opponents continuously resort to it, when surprised. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7** I played all the same moves already against Wojtaszek as well as against Gelfand. Previously I would just keep waiting for Black to determine the situation in the center, but in this game I decided to start some concrete action. **10.Bxf6!?**
An interesting moment to release the tension in the center, before castling kingside. **10...Bxf6** Sort of falling for the main idea. Black can also consider 10... Nd7 or 10...0-0 instead. **11.c4!**
A new move. White is going for the bishop pair. **11...b4 12.Nc2**
Besides White gaining the bishop pair, Black's problem is that it's not clear where his king would be safe, with White having kingside pawn storm option in case of a short castle by Black.
12...a5 Keeping the options open, but frankly quite slow. **13.Be2**
[13.g3]
13...0-0 14.Bg4N I was very happy with this move. Making the knight decide on it's destiny before it has access to a reasonable square, such as e8 or d7. Now all the squares are quite unappealing.
[14.0-0 Bg5 15.Qd3 Be6 *(15...Rb8 16.Rad1 g6 17.b3 Be6 18.Bf3 Rb7 19.Qe2 Ne7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rd3 h5 22.Rfd1 Rd8 23.Ne3 Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Rdd7 25.Qh6 Qf8 26.Qxf8+ Kxf8 27.Rxd6 Rbc7 28.h4 Ke7 29.Ra6 Rc5 30.Kf1* 9.Nd2 a5/ 14.Qc2 Ngf6 15.Bd3 (2723)-Kavakul, M (2781) Germany corr 1988 (2) 1-0 *)* 16.Rad1
A) 16...Bxd5 17.Qxd5 *(17.cxd5 Nb8 18.Bg4 Na6 19.g3 Nc5 20.Qf3 Na4 21.Qb3 Nc5 22.Qf3 Qb6 23.h4 Bh6 24.Ne3 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Qb5 26.Rfe1 Rfe8 27.h5 h6 28.Qe2 Qxe2 29.Rxe2 Ra7 30.Rc1 Rc7 31.Rc4 Kf8* Asrian,K (2635)-Ni Hua (2607) Taiyuan 2006 *)* 17...Qb6 18.Bg4 Rfd8 19.g3 g6 20.Kg2 h5 21.Be2 b3 22.axb3 Qxb3 23.f4 Bh6 24.Qxc6 Qxc2 25.Rf2 Rac8 26.Qd5 Rc5 27.Qxc5 dxc5 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.Bxh5
4.0-0 ♘ge7 5.d4_30958 (2337)-Line 12 Exchange 5.Nc3 (2377) 30/ 335 Tbilisi 1980 [2] ½-½;
B) 16...Kh8 17.Bf3 g6 18.b3 Ra7 19.Qe2 Rd7 20.Rd3 Nb8 21.a3 bxa3 22.Nxa3 Na6 23.Rdd1 Nc5 24.Qc2 f5 25.Nb5 Bh6 26.Ndc3 Qb6 27.exf5 Bxf5 28.Qe2 Nxb3
4.h3 ♗g7 5.♘f3 de4 6.♘e (2682)-Chigogidze,K (2706) 29/452 Reykjavik 1980 (9.5) 0-1]
14...Be6 This is long-term bad, but in fact there was no good option at this point. **15.Qf3** -0.24/22 Now whatever happens, the h5 knight is in danger of being out of play. Black has a few options and my opponent spent a lot of time making up his mind here.
[15.Nxf6+ 0.13/20 might be stronger. Qxf6 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 *(16...fxe6 17.0-0=)* 17.Qd3]
15...Bg5= Black has an edge.
[15...a4! 16.0-0! Rb8! The knight will eventually break free from h5 with f4 incoming and White has lost a part of the advantage. It is also a pity that the a-pawns are doubled, though 26.Nxf5 does win a pawn. 17.b3!? Is a very elegant solution. The king gets a great square and there is the idea of Qb4 as well, potentially.]
16.Rd1 -0.58/15 Also possible was to try

to open the position with 16.c4!?.
[16.0-0! Trying to free the h5 knight was the best chance.]
[16.0-0= -0.17/20 is superior.]
16...a4!∓ 17.Ndxb4 -0.76/14
[17.h3!∓ -0.36/21]
17...Nxb4∓ Had Black anticipated what was about to happen, he would also consider 17...Na5!? first, before trading the bishops. White would still have a comfortable position, since the knight on h5 is a bad piece, but with the closed center, it would be harder for White to capitalize on the advantage. **18.Nxb4 a3** 0.02/12
[18...Qa5 19.a3! Strongly threatening Bxe6. and the e3 pawn is guarded and f3 is a threat. Bxc4 20.Qc3! and the d5 pawn is falling. Qb5!? -0.13/7 *(20...Bb3∓* -0.85/12 *21.Rxd6 Rad8 22.Rxd8 Rxd8)*]
[18...Bxc4 19.Qc3 Bb5 20.h4±]
[18...Qb6∓ -0.89/13 19.a3 Bxc4]
19.bxa3 I was very happy with this idea, that occured to me while my opponent was contemplating 17...Bd6. All tactics work for me and opening the position only highlights the fact that the knight on h5 is out of play. **19...Bxc4 20.Qc3 Bb5** A strong pair of Bishops.
[20...Qc7 21.h4! The e5 knight is lacking squares. Bh6 22.Nd3! -0.20/6 I suspect I missed this idea during my calculation. *(22.Rh3±* 0.46/19 *)*]
21.Be2! As Ne4 and Qxd5 doesn't work, White goes for plan B, which is to blockade the weak isolated d-pawn. The knight meanwhile is still dead on h5.
21...Bxe2 22.Kxe2 I was very happy with this accurate move. Alternatives seemed less convincing. **22...Qd7**
[22...Qa5 0.41/14 22...f5 -0.30 23.Rxd6]
23.h4 -0.11/15
[⌓23.Rhe1 0.26/10]
23...Bh6 Black has compensation. Black is weak on the light squares
[23...Rfc8 if Qxh5 then Qxf5 wins.
A) 24.Qh3 Is also good enough apparently. Qb5+ 25.Qd3 Rc4 26.hxg5? -2.82/14 *(26.Kf3!* White is having everything under control. *Qc5!; 26.Kf3!∓* -0.38/11 *Qc5 27.hxg5)* 26...Rxa3!;
B) 24.Qd3 and white is up a piece.]
24.f3?! Active counter play! I was a little too happy with this move. I had overestimated the endgame, not realizing that the knight on h5 is not as doomed as it optically looks. **24...Rfc8?!** Black also didn't rate his chances high in the endgame. **25.Qb3** -0.44/8
I liked this move a lot, taking away the c4 square.
[25.Qxe5= -0.02/16 Qa7 26.Qd4]
25...Qb5+ -0.04/11
[25...Bf4∓ -0.44/8]
26.Rd3!= I was hesitating between this and 26.Qb4! which might have been even more accurate, as it would also control the d6 square. **26...Rc4**
I wanted to trade rooks, but also possible was to double on the d-file.
27.Rhd1 Rac8 28.Kf2 Qb6+ 29.Kf1
I didn't want to trade rooks in this version, as it would allow Qh3, but it was actually still great for White.
29...Rc1 This doesn't do anything. I first intended Bf3 here, but then decided it's time to try and win by force and went for something very sophisticated. **30.Nd5!? Qd8** Walking out of Bh3, but now the d5 pawn is vulnerable. **31.Rxc1** 0.07/7
[31.g3]
[31.g3± 0.48/12]

31...Rxc1+ Here I felt there was a forced win, but after looking for it for a while, I abandoned that whole idea and decided to just try and flag my opponent instead. Eventually the strategy worked, but not sure my mindset was a very good one.
32.Rd1 I just made a move, improving the position a little, hoping some kind of win will turn up later. **32...Rc8** 1.06/10
[32...Rxd1+ 33.Qxd1 Qc2 is the strong threat. Qxh4 34.Qb3! White wants to mate with Qb8+. g6! 35.Qb8+ *(35.a4* -1.48/12 35.Qb8+ 0.00 *Qh1+! 36.Kf2 Bd2!* Somewhere around here I thought things are getting out of control, but in fact White has a direct win. *37.g4!* A strong blow. *Qe1+ 38.Kg2 Qe2+ 39.Kg1 Kg7)* 35...Kg7! Hoping for ... Qh1+. 36.Qxd6 Qh1+ 37.Kf2 Qh4+ is how it was supposed to be won. 38.Ke2! Qg5 39.Kd3! Qd2+ 40.Kc4 Qxa2+ Was the tempting variation that I should have continued. 41.Kb5]
[32...Rxd1+= 0.05/11 33.Qxd1 Qxh4]
33.g3 0.50/10
[33.Qb7!± 1.06/10 Kf8 34.Nb4]
33...g5? 2.24/12
[Black should play 33...g6!± 0.50/10]

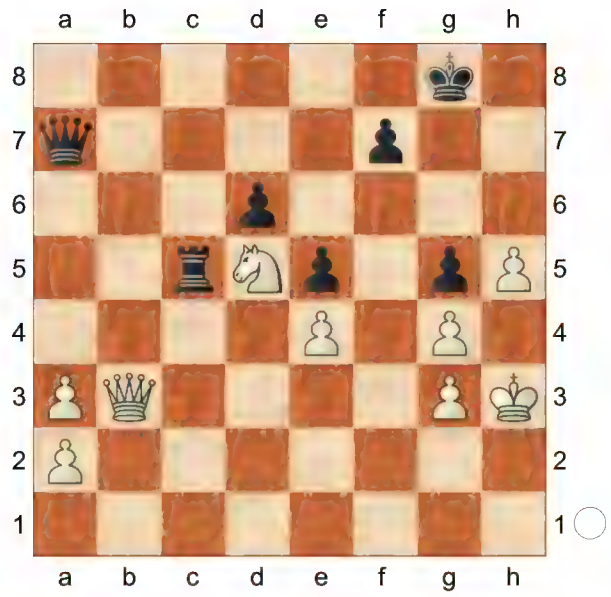
(Diagram)

A mistake that costs the game. **34.h5!+- g4** I didn't know how to further improve my position, but actually I had to let go of the h2 square control and reposition my rook. **35.fxg4 Bg5**
[35...Qg5 3.45/10 35...Rb8 2.28 36.Kg2]
36.Kg2 Rc5 3.53/10
[⌓36...Qa5 2.49/12 37.Rf1 Rf8]

37.Rf1 Qa8? 8.45/21 Here is an even better opportunity to reposition the h1 rook. Again, I was probably obsessed with not letting Qh2 happen.
[37...h6 3.21/19 38.a4 Qd7]
38.Kh3 This is already a question, whether it improves my position or harms it, but I intended some kind of Nb3 somewhere, but mainly still tried to flag Aryan.
[38.Rxf7]
[38.Ne7+ Kh8 *(38...Bxe7 39.Qxf7+ Kh8 40.Qxe7 Qxe4+* Black has some chances to hold, but the endgame is on the edge. *41.Kh3)* 39.Qxf7 Rc7]
38...Qa7 6.12/10
[⌓38...Qf8 4.29/9 39.Nf6+ Bxf6]
39.a4?! 2.73/8 I should have grabbed the c-file with the queen.
[39.Rf5 h6! 8.94/11 Black has to be very accurate to try and hold this somehow. *(⌓39...Bd8* 4.34/15 *40.g5 Kg7 41.h6+ Kh8)* 40.Rxg5++- hxg5

(Diagram)

41.Qe3!]
[⌓39.Rf5 6.12/10 Bd8 40.g5]



39...Kg7 40.Qf3 Rc2? 11.75/9
[40...Qd7 2.59/11 41.Rb1 Ra5]
41.Qf5 h6 The d5 pawn was about to fall, so this was a clever attempt to stir up some chaos. **42.Nf6?**
White threatens Qh7+ and mate.
I was playing rather mindlessly at this point and missed a few key resources.
42...Bxf6 43.Qxf6+ Endgame. KQR-KQR **43...Kg8** 8.92/11 Black is completely fine now, but as flagging was still on the agenda, I had to refuse the draw offer.
[⌓43...Kh7 4.95/9 44.g5 *(44.Qxf7+ Qxf7 45.Rxf7+ Kg8+-; 44.Qxd6 Rf2+-)* 44...Qd7+ 45.Rf5 Rc8 46.gxh6 *(46.Qxh6+ Kg8+-)* 46...Rg8 47.Qxf7+ Qxf7 48.Rxf7+ Kxh6]
44.g5
[44.Qxd6 Rf2 45.Rb1 Qe3+-]
44...Qd7+ 45.Rf5 Qe6 46.Qxe6
At this point I just wanted to capture something.
[46.gxh6 Qxf6 47.Rxf6 Re2+-]
[Not 46.Qxh6 Qxa2 47.g6 *(47.Qxd6? Rh2+ 48.Kg4 Qe2+* Skewer, Double Attack *49.Rf3 Qxe4+-+)* 47...Rh2+ *(47...Qxa4 48.gxf7#)* 48.Kg4 Qe2+ 49.Rf3 *(49.Kg5? Qe3+-+* Skewer, Double Attack *)* 49...Qxe4+=]
46...fxe6 KR-KR **47.Rf6?!** Objectively better was 47.Qc2+. Now Black even has an advantage. **47...hxg5**
I was also bothered by 47...g6, when it is White who has to look for equality already. **48.Rxe6** I was kinda hoping to pose some problems in the endgame, but 48...Rf5! would be painful.
48...Rxa2? Fortunately for me, Aryan missed the 48...Rf5! opportunity here and now I am somewhat back in control.
49.Kg4 Rxa4 50.Kf5 Ra3
[50...Rd4 51.Kg6 Kf8 Prevents Re8+ 52.h6]
51.g4 The time trouble of my opponent came in handy here, as otherwise I am sure he would manage to find one of the many ways to hold this slightly unpleasant looking endgame.
[And not 51.Kxg5 Rxg3+ 52.Kf6 Rd3=]
51...Rf3+
[51...Kf7 52.Rxd6! It was important to lure the king to d3. Rf3+ 53.Kxg5 Rf4 Otherwise Black just keeps checking with the rook. 54.h6 and Black is okay here, thanks to Ne5+ idea. Rxe4 55.h7 was a better try, hoping for Rxf2 Bxd5! cheapo. Kg7 56.Rd7+ is very unclear. Kh8 57.Kh6! Rd4! would win material. 58.Rxd4 exd4 The e5 queen hangs, which facilitates this intermezzo. 59.g5 d3 60.g6 This is not that clean of a win, but at least it's better than what I did in the game. d2 61.g7#! I didn't realize this simple move would lead to a very promising endgame.]
52.Kg6 And now Re8+ would win.
52...d5 53.exd5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.40.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=7 Black=7
Inaccurate: White=2 Black=5
OK: White=12 Black=8
Best: White=2 Black=1
Strong: White=2 ---

[53.Re8+?! The rook would be better placed behind my g-pawn, but on seconds such finesses aren't easy to spot. Rf8 54.Rxf8+ Kxf8 55.h6 aiming for h7. Kg8 56.h7+ Kh8 Now White is on the way to queen the g-pawn, but there is still a defense available. 57.exd5?? At this point the blunder doesn't come as a shock, as Black actually had some problem to solve and there was just no time. e4! Now White is winning, as there is no stopping the g-pawn. 58.d6 e3 59.d7 e2 60.d8R#]

1-0

B33

□ **Iskandarov,Misratdin** **2551**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
FIDE World Cup (2.2) 03.08.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Bd2 0-0 11.a5 a6 The position is equal.

[11...Nd7 12.Bb4 a6 13.Na3 f5 14.Nc4 Nf6 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.Ra3 f4 17.Be2 Bf5 18.0-0 Qe8 19.c4 Qg6 20.Kh1 Rbd8 21.f3 Nh5 22.Bd3 Ng3+ 23.Kg1 Nxf1 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Qxf1 e4 26.Bc3 Nepomniachtchi,I (2776)-Nakamura,H (2745) chess.com Speed 2019 (3.28) 0-1]

12.Na3 Bf5 13.Nc4N

[13.Be2 Be4 14.Bf3 Bg6 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Nc4 Rc8 17.b3 f5 Sveshnikov 7.Nd5-Sveshnikov 7. Nd5 #14]

13...Nd7 Wards off Nb6 **14.Bb4 Rc8 15.Be2 Bg6 16.0-0 Nc5!?N**

An interesting novelty. Eine interessante Neuerung.

[Vorgänger: 16...Rc7 17.Ra3 f5 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 19.Nxd6 Hoping for Rb3. b5 20.Nxb5 axb5 21.d6 Ra7! Strongly threatening ...b4. 22.Bxb5 Nf6 Fedoseev,V (2678)-Gelfand,B (2676) PNWCC Online blitz JP 18th 2020 (9) 1-0]

17.Ra3 f5 18.Nb6 Rc7 19.Bxc5 0.01/19

[19.c4± 0.39/23 feels stronger.]

19...Rxc5= 20.b4 Rc7 21.c4 e4 22.f4 exf3 23.Bxf3 Bf6 24.Kh1 Be5! 25.Re1 Rcf7→ And now ...Qh4 would win. Black attacks.

[25...Qh4 26.Rxe5 dxe5 27.d6]

26.Rae3 -0.64/21

[26.g3!= 0.00/21]

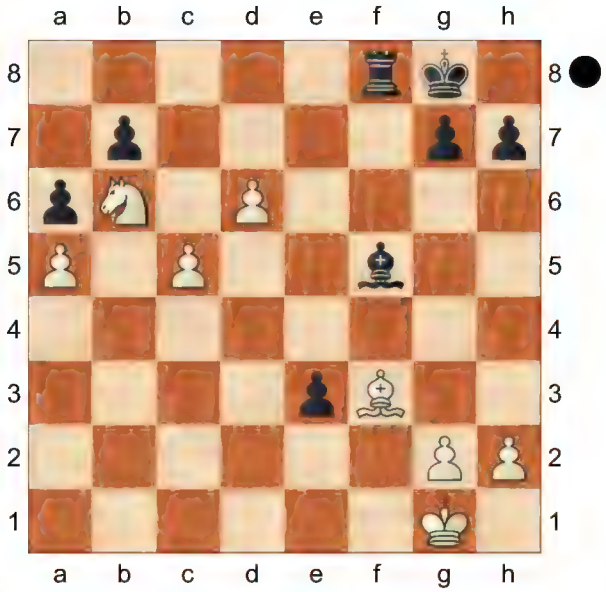
26...Bf4!∓ This pair of bishops is nice. **27.Qd4** -1.74/22 Black keeps a firm grip on the game. **27...Bxe3-+ 28.Qxe3 f4 29.Qe6** -2.73/21

[29.Qf2∓ -1.57/23 is a better defense.]

29...Bf5 30.Qe2 Qh4 Threatens to win with ...g5. **31.Kg1 Qf6 32.Qd2 Re7 33.Rxe7 Qxe7 34.c5** -4.37/21

[⌓34.h3 -2.82/22]

34...dxc5 35.d6 Qe3+ 36.Qxe3 fxe3 37.bxc5 Endgame.



KRB-KBN **37...Be4** Deflection, Promotion **38.Bg4**

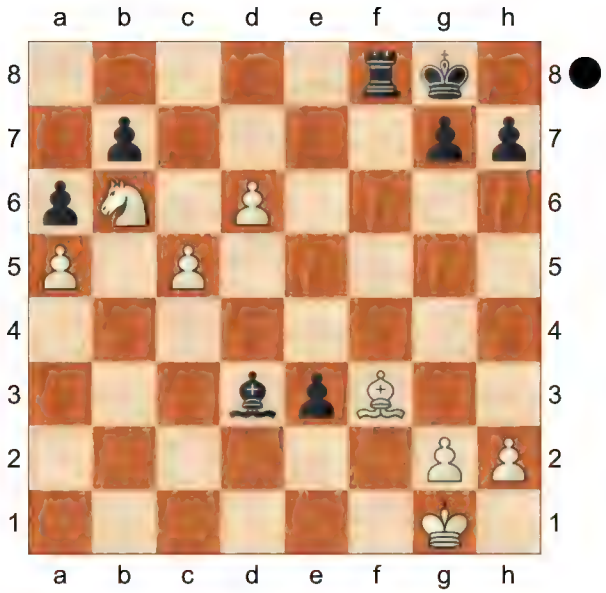
[38.Bxe4 e2 39.h4 e1Q+ *(39...e1B 40.Nd7±)* 40.Kh2 Qxh4+ *(40...Qxe4 41.d7 Qxh4+ 42.Kg1 Rf4 43.d8Q+ Qxd8 44.Nd7 Qh4 45.Nf6+ gxf6 46.g4 Qg3+ 47.Kh1 Rf1#)* 41.Kg1 Rf6 *(41...Qxe4 42.d7 Qd4+ 43.Kh2 Rf1 44.d8Q+ Qxd8 45.Kh3 Qg5 46.g4 Qe3+ 47.Kh2 Rf2+ 48.Kh1 Qe1#)* 42.Bd5+ Kh8 43.g3 Qxg3+ 44.Bg2 Rf2 45.Kh1 Qxg2#]

38...Bd3 39.Bf3

(Diagram)

Be4 Deflection, Promotion **40.Bg4**

[40.Bxe4 e2 41.h4 e1Q+ *(41...e1B 42.Nd7±)* 42.Kh2 Qxh4+ *(42...Qxe4 43.d7 Qxh4+ 44.Kg1 Rf4 45.d8Q+ Qxd8 46.Nd5 Qxd5 47.Kh2 Qe5 48.Kg3 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 Rh4#)* 43.Kg1 Rf6 *(43...Qxe4 44.d7 Qd4+ 45.Kh2 Rf1 46.d8Q+ Qxd8 47.Kh3 Qg5 48.g4 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 Rf2+ 50.Kh1 Qe1#)* 44.Bd5+ Kh8 45.g3 Qxg3+



46.Bg2 Rf2 47.Kh1 Qxg2#]

[40.Be2 Bc6]

40...Kf7 Against Be6+. Black is clearly winning. **41.Nc4 Kf6 42.Nxe3 Ke5 43.Nc4+ Kd4 44.Nb6 Bc6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.03 (flawless) .

Mistake:	White=5	---
OK:	White=12	
Black=18		
Best:	---	
Black=4		
Strong:	---	
Black=2		

[Weaker is 44...Kxc5 45.Nd7+ Kxd6 46.Nxf8±]

0-1

B33

□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2792**

■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2754**

Norway Chess 9th (2) 08.09.2021

[Firouzja,Alireza, MH]

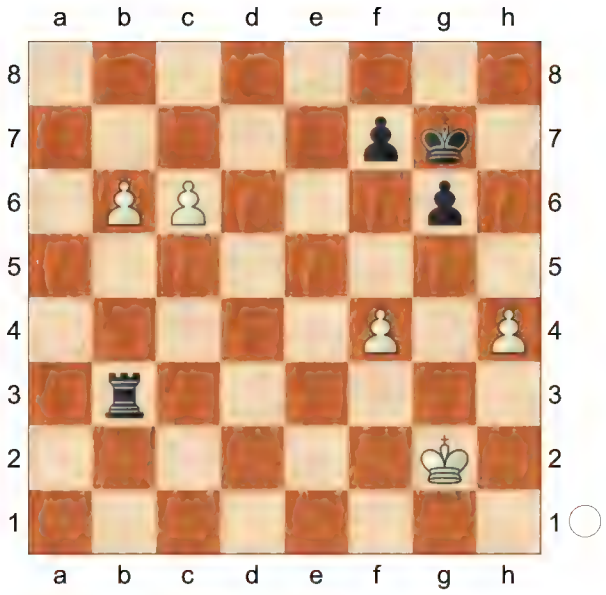
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4

Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 Archangelsk Defence, pretty popular nowadays!
7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5!? One of the many tries for white! **8...Ne7 9.c4 Ng6 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qb4 Qb8 12.h4** Strongly threatening h5. All of this is very well-known theory and guess what? It continues :) **12...h5! 13.Be3**
[13.Bd3 0.10/18 13.Be2 0.61]
13...a6 White is slightly better.
[13...b6 14.Be2 Be7 15.g3 a6 16.Nc3]
14.Nc3 Be7
[14...a5]
[14...f5]
15.g3! Very strong move, other wise black will get the upperhand!
[15.Na4]
15...0-0 16.Be2 b5! Probably the first inaccuracy in the game! Capturing the queen with the knight is definitely the better choice! **17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxh5 Bd8N**
[18...Rc8 19.Rc1 Bd8 20.Bxg6 fxg6 21.0-0 Ba5 22.Qb3 Bxc3 23.Rxc3 Rxc3 24.bxc3 7.dc5 ♗c5 8. ♗d3_57566 (2429)-Rosen (2380) Ebensee 1930 [1] ½-½]
19.0-0 Now black is hanging by a thread!
[19.Bxg6 fxg6]
19...Ne7 Black has compensation.
20.Bg5? After this black has no problems. White had to be very precise to get a convincing advantage! **20...Ba5 21.Qb3 Nf5 22.Ne2 Bb6**
[22...f6 23.Bc1 Rc8 24.Bg6 Qb7 25.Qf3 -0.89/20 *(25.Be3∓* -0.41/21 is superior. *)* 25...Ne7]
23.Rac1 Ra4= Dodges Bg4 Here black has zero problems! **24.Rc6 Bxc6** 0.00/25
[Better is 24...Qa7∓ -0.59/16]
25.dxc6 Rc4 26.a4 Nd4
[26...d5 27.axb5 Rc5]
27.Nxd4 Very precise to make draw right away! **27...Bxd4 28.axb5 d5** 1.28/21
[28...Rxc6 29.Be7 Rcc8 30.Bxf8 Rxf8 31.Bf3±]
[28...Rc5!≛ 0.48/20]
29.Rc1!± White is more active.
29...Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Qb6 31.Be3 A very interesting and unbalanced game!
[Stronger than 31.Qxd5 Bxf2+ 32.Kh2 Bxg3+ 33.Kxg3 Qg1+ 34.Kh3 Qxc1=]
31...Bxe3 Probably what Ian was planning when he was going for this line, but after **32.fxe3+-** Endgame. KQR-KQB **32...Rd8** 2.91/21
[32...d4 33.exd4 Qxd4+ 34.Kf1 0.21/21 *(34.Kg2!±* 1.40/23 And now b6 would win. *Qd2+ 35.Kh3)* 34...e4? 2.53/22 *(34...g6!=* 0.21/21 and Black stays safe. *35.Bxg6 Qg4)* 35.Qc3!+- Qd5 36.Be2]
[32...d4± 1.51/22 33.exd4 Qxd4+ 34.Kf1 g6 35.Bxg6 Qg4]
33.Kg2! g6 34.Be2 black manages to equalise! **34...Kg7 35.Qc3 d4 36.exd4 exd4 37.Qd3= Qa5! 38.Qc2?** 0.36/18
[38.h5+- 3.21/19]
38...Qb4? 2.59/19
[38...Re8≛ 0.36/18]
39.b3 1.06/19
[39.Qe4+- 2.59/19]
39...Re8± 40.Bc4
[40.c7 Rc8 Hoping for ...Qd6. 41.Bg4! f5 42.Bxf5 gxf5 43.Qxf5 Rxc7 44.Qe5+]
40...Re7? 3.42/23
[40...Qc3± 0.77/22 41.Qf2 Re7]
41.Qf2? 0.00/33 I thought this was my only chance to fight!
[41.Qd3]
[41.Qd3+- 3.42/23 Qc5 42.Qf3]
41...Qc3= 42.Qf3↑ White fights for an

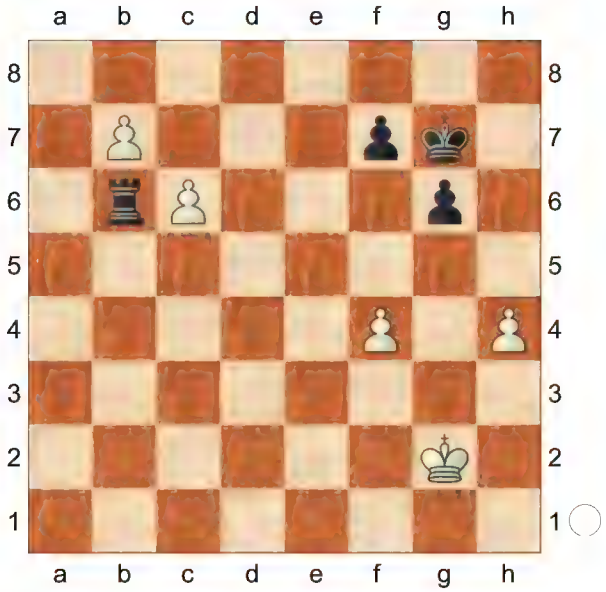
advantage. Some like it hot
[42.b6!? d3□ 43.b7=]
42...Qb4? 4.30/24
[42...f5 43.b6 *(43.Qxc3 dxc3 44.Bd3 c2; 43.Qd5 Qc2+ 44.Kh3 Qd1)* 43...Qc2+ 44.Kh3 g5 45.hxg5 Kg6 46.Bg8 Re2 *(46...d3; 46...d3!? 47.b7□ Qe2=)*]
[42...Qc2+ 43.Kh3 f5!]
[42...f5= 0.00/33 and Black has nothing to worry.]
43.Kh3? 0.66/24
[43.Qd5 Threatens to win with c7. Qd2+ 44.Kh3]
[White has to play 43.Qd5!+- 4.30/24 Qd2+ 44.Kh3]
43...Qd6 6.29/22
[43...Qe1 44.b6 0.00/31 *(44.Bd5!± 0.84/24 aiming for b6. Qa5 45.Qd3)* 44...d3!= 45.Bxd3 -0.40/18 *(45.c7= 0.00/31 is more appropriate. d2 46.c8Q)* 45...Re3]
[43...Qe1± 0.66/24]
44.Qf4? 1.06/20
[44.b6]
[44.b6+- 6.29/22 has better winning chances.]
44...Qxf4 6.89/18
[44...Qc5]
[44...Qc5± 1.06/20]
45.gxf4± KR-KB. White is clearly winning. The rook on c5 looks akwardly placed, but as they say - a pawn is a pawn! **45...d3?! 46.Bxd3 Re3+ 47.Kg2∓ Rxd3+-** KR-KP is the main line! **48.b6! Rxb3**

(Diagram)



49.b7! Rb6

(Diagram)



50.h5! gxh5
[50...Rb2+ 51.Kh3]
51.Kh3 Rxc6 52.b8Q
[52.b8B? is the wrong capture. Kg6 53.Kh4 Rc2-+]
52...Rc5 Prevents Qe5+. **53.Qb2+ f6 54.Kh4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/ Black=0.73.
Loses game: --- Black=5
Missed win: White=4 ---
Mistake: White=1

Black=3
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=14
Black=14
Best: ---
Black=1
Strong: White=2
Black=1 . An unexpected result.
½-½

		B33
□	**Nyzhnyk,Illya**	**2687**
■	**Niemann,Hans Moke**	**2699**
Saint Louis 154/55		2022

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4

[14.Rxa4 Rxb2 15.Bxa6 Be6 16.0-0 Bg5 17.Ncb4 Nxb4 18.cxb4 Rd2 19.Qf3 f5 20.Ne3 Qd7 21.Raa1 f4 22.Nc4 Rd4 23.Nb6 Qd8 24.Nd5 Bxd5 25.exd5 Rxb4 26.Bd3 Qe7 27.Be4 Rfb8 28.Qd3 g6 Burgess,D-Smith,A (2038) BCF-ch rapidplay 34th 2023 (7) 0-1]

14...Nxb4 15.Nxb4N

[15.cxb4 Bb7 16.Rxa4 Qc8 *(16...Bc6 17.Rxa6 Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Rxb4 19.Bc4 Rxb2 20.0-0* Diaz,J (2375)-Camacho Martinez,G (2260) 69/(152) Pinar del Rio 1997 *)* 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Bd3 d5 *(18...Bc6 19.Rxa6 Rxb4 20.0-0 Rd4 21.Qf3 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Qxa6 23.Qg4+ Kh8 24.Qf5 Rxe4 25.Qxf6+ Kg8 26.Qg5+ Kh8 27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Qg5+ Kh8* 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2765)-Molina,R (2850) GER VM001A corr 2001 (1) ½-½ *)* 19.exd5 Rd8 20.0-0 Rxd5 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3]

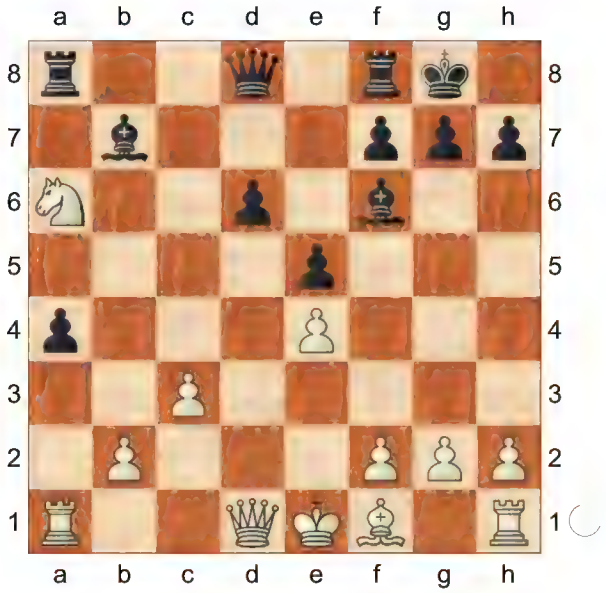
15...Bb7 Dodges Nc6 **16.Nxa6** -0.72/21

[16.Qxa4? -2.21/15 16.Bxa6 -0.40 -25/(410)]

[16.Bxa6∓ -0.33/21 Bxa6 *(16...Bxe4 17.0-0∓)* 17.Nxa6 Rxb2 18.0-0]

16...Ra8∓ Diagram

[16...Bxa6 17.Bxa6 Rxb2 18.Rxa4=]



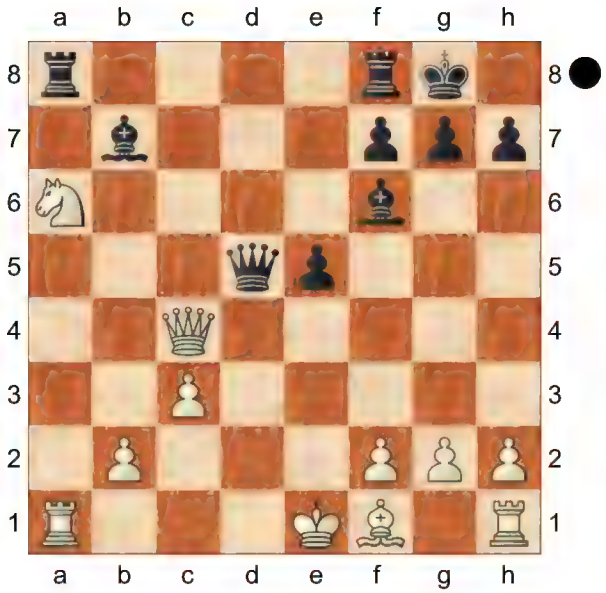
17.Qxa4N Black is better.

[17.Rxa4 -1.94/20 17.Qxa4 -0.79 Bc6! 18.Bc4 Bxa4 19.Qxa4 Qb6 20.Qb5 -2.07/28 *(⌓20.0-0* -1.70/25 *)* 20...Qxb5 *(20...Qa7?* -0.48/21 20...Qxb5 -2.01 *21.0-0∞)* 21.Bxb5 Rfb8! 22.Nxb8 *(22.c4?* -3.41/22 22.Nxb8 -1.42 *Rxa6 23.Bxa6 Ra8!-+)* 22...Ra1+ 23.Ke2 Rxh1-+]

17...d5 18.Qb5

[18.exd5? -2.74/21 18.Qb5 -0.67 Qxd5 19.Qc4

(Diagram)



Qd6!-+]

18...Qe7

[18...Ra7 19.Be2 Qd6 And now ... Rfa8 would win. 20.Ra3! d4∓]

19.Be2! Ra7 -0.12/12

[19...d4 20.0-0 Bxe4 21.Rfe1 Qd6 22.Qb4 Qd8 23.Bc4 Bf5∓]

[19...dxe4∓ -0.54/11 20.0-0 e3 21.fxe3 Bg5]

20.Ra3

[20.exd5 Rfa8 21.0-0 *(21.Qb6 Qd8-+)* 21...Rxa6 *(21...Bxa6? 22.Qc6-+)* 22.Rxa6 Bxa6∓]

20...dxe4 21.0-0 Diagram

[21.Nc5! Rxa3 22.bxa3 Ba8 Strongly threatening ...Rc8. 23.0-0 Bg5∞]

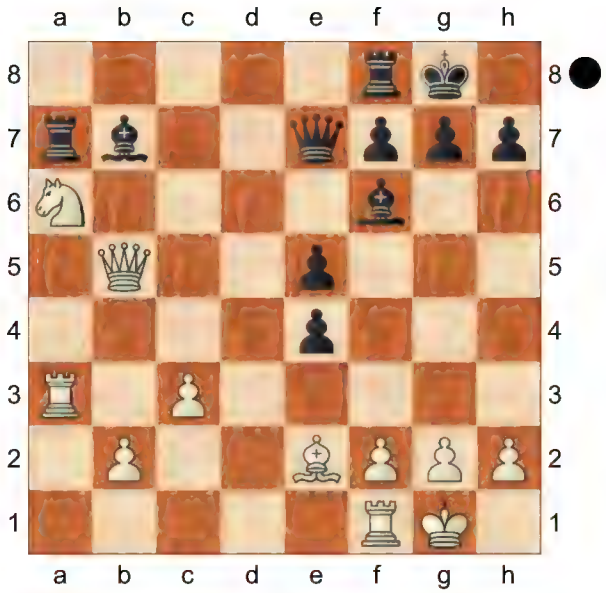
[21.Nc5 simplifies Rxa3 22.bxa3 Ba8 23.0-0]

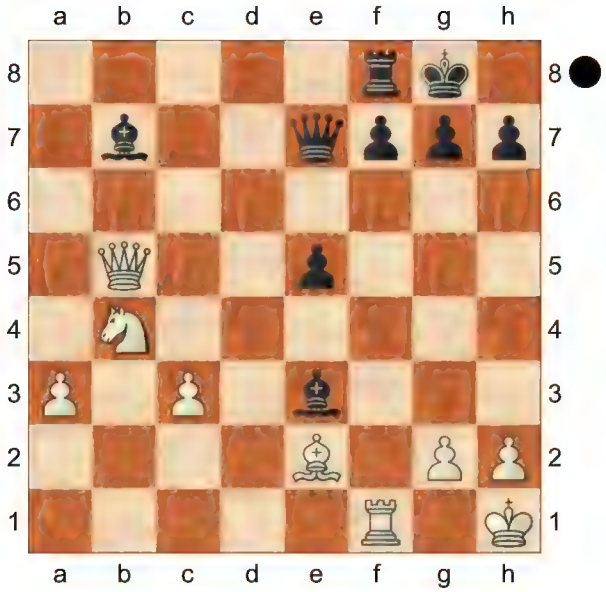
(Diagram)

21...e3!↑ White must now prevent ... exf2+. Black is pushing. **22.f3** -1.09/9

[22.fxe3 Bg5 23.Nb4 Bxe3+ 24.Kh1 Rxa3 25.bxa3

(Diagram)





g6!∓]

[22.Nc5! Rxa3 23.bxa3 exf2+ 24.Rxf2 Bc8 25.Ne4! Bh4 26.g3! Bg5∓ 27.Nxg5 Qxg5∞]

[22.Nc5= -0.21/17 keeps the balance. Rxa3 23.bxa3]

22...e4∓ 23.fxe4 -1.97/12

[23.Qc5 exf3 24.gxf3 Bc8 Threatens to win with ...Rd7. 25.Rd1 Qxc5 26.Nxc5 Rxa3 27.bxa3 Bxc3∓]

[23.Qc5∓ -1.06/12 Rfa8 *(23...exf3 24.gxf3 Rfa8 25.Rfa1∓)* 24.Rfa1]

23...Qxe4-+
[Don't do 23...Bxe4 24.Nc5 Rxa3 25.bxa3∓]
24.Bf3 Qe7 ...Bxf3 would now be deadly. **25.Qe2** -3.20/14
[⌓25.Be2 -2.02/11]
25...Bxf3 26.Rxf3 Re8 27.Ra1 Qd6 28.Rf5 Qd2 29.Kf1 -5.29/22
[29.Qxd2 -3.74/23 was worth a try. exd2 30.Rff1]

29...Rxa6! Promotion.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.58/ Black=0.06 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=5
Black=1
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=3
Black=10
Strong: White=1 ---
0-1

B33
□ **Karjakin,Sergey** **2743**
■ **Mamedov,Rauf** **2656**
7th Gashimov Mem Rapid (7.2) 21.12.21
[Roiz,MH]

1.e4 Szabo,Krisztian Szabo,Krisztian Szabo,Krisztian **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7**
This is a somewhat riskier choice than 8...Nb8. **9.c4 Ng6** This is the top choice at the highest level, This is the top choice at the highest level,
[though 9...Nf5 has also been tried by Grandmasters. For instance, has also been tried by Grandmasters. For instance, 10.Bd3 g6 11.0-0 a6 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.Bxf5 Bxf5 14.Be3± Maghsoodloo,P - Fawzy,A Sharjah 2021]
[9...a6? Szabo,Krisztian 10.Qa4+-]
10.Qa4 Bd7 Szabo,Krisztian: '=' '='
11.Qb4 Qb8 Again Rauf goes for the most common continuation. Of course this position was analyzed in depth by both players. Again Rauf goes for the most common continuation. Of course this position was analyzed in depth by both players.
[After 11...Bf5 White should either accept a draw by repetition or continue fighting with White should either accept a draw by repetition or continue fighting with Szabo,Krisztian: 'is a big alternative to the main line. White can now repeat the position or go for something more challenging.' 12.h4 Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' '!' Szabo,Krisztian: 'Threatening to attack the g6-knight with h5 next and challenging Black to reply with ...h5. If Black plays ...h5, this will slow Black's

kingside expansion ideas, as a potential ...f5 would weaken the g5-square.' *(12.Qa4* Szabo,Krisztian *)* 12...h5 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Black stops White from grabbing even more space with h4-h5 next. Besides slowing down Black potential expansion on the kingside, White also has a new potential target on h5 and moves like ♗e2 and ♕d1, may come as a plan.' *(12...a6* Szabo,Krisztian *13.h5!* (Kramnik,V (2779)-Roganovic,M (2527) Batumi 2018) *axb5 14.hxg6 bxc4* White has now several possibilities to grab pawns. All interesting from the calculation point of view and all giving a slightly better position for White: 15.♗xc4, 15.gxf7+, 15.♕xb7, 15.♖xh7 and even15.gxh7. Lots of possibile positions to play, where White has the initiative. *15.gxf7+ Kxf7 16.Qxb7+ Be7 17.Bxc4±* Is just one example.*;* *12...Be7* Szabo,Krisztian *13.Bg5!? a6 14.Bxe7 Kxe7* Forced. *15.Nc3±* Voronin,A (2285)-Pelekh,I (2194) ICCF email 2011 *)* 13.Bg5 , as in Karjakin,S (2753)-Carlsen,M (2845) Shamkir AZE 2019 [Roiz,M] Qb8 Szabo,Krisztian *(13...Be7?* Szabo,Krisztian *14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.c5! dxc5 16.Qxc5+±; 13...f6* Szabo,Krisztian *14.Be3 a6 15.Nc3±* Narayanan,S (2603)-Vidit,S (2707) Xingtai 2019*; 13...Qd7* Szabo,Krisztian *14.Qa5 b6 15.Qa4±)* 14.Be2 a6 15.Nc3 Qc7 Black still wants to send its king to safety, before launching an attack on the kingside. *(15...Nf4 16.Bf1* It was that or play without the bishop pair, after 16.♗xf4. Also possible, nevertheless. *Be7 17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.g3 Ng6 19.Qb6±)* 16.g3 Be7 17.Be3 e4! Black frees the e5-square for the knight, where it will attack the very advanced f3- and d3-squares, creating some threats on the light squares, for White to be aware about. (Karjakin,S (2753)-Carlsen,M (2845) Shamkir 2019) *(17...Nf8* Intending ... Nd7 next, protecting h5 and castling short is also one possible plan that Black may play here. *18.a4* White takes more space, while Black "slowly" goes after castling. *Nd7 19.a5!±* Alekseenko,K (2650)-Kuzubov, Y (2671) Konya 2019 *)* 18.Qa4+ An improvement to the Karjakin - Carlsen game, where the game followed with 18.0-0 and White losing the edge it had. Bd7 *(18...Kf8 19.Rd1±* Panitevsky,I (2512)-Fetisov,A (2457) ICCF email 2019 *)* 19.Qd1 Threatening ♘xe4 and placing more pressute on the h5-pawn. 0-0! The only way for Black to keep White just within an edge, is to sacrifice a pawn for some compensation. 20.Nxe4 White has a small edge due to the pawn up, but with weak light square, Black has almost full compensation for it. The position still has a lot to offer.]

[11...Bxb5?! Szabo,Krisztian Why give up the bishop pair without a clear compensation? 12.Qxb5+ Qd7 13.Qxd7+ Kxd7 14.g3±]

12.h4 Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' '!' **12...h5** This is practically forced.

[The alternative 12...a6? 13.h5 Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' axb5 *(13...Nf4* Szabo,Krisztian *14.Nc3±)* 14.hxg6

A) 14...Ra4 Szabo,Krisztian 15.Qb3 fxg6 *(15...bxc4 16.Bxc4±)* 16.cxb5 Re4+

17.Be3±;
B) 14...fxg6 15.cxb5 Be7 16.a4 was tested in a few games, but the position is practically lost here. was tested in a few games, but the position is practically lost here.]

13.Be3
[After 13.g3 White was victorious in Deac, B (2613)- Banusz,T (2619) Batumi GEO 2019 [Roiz,M]. Still, it doesn't feel as energetic as the text. White was victorious in Deac, B (2613)- Banusz,T (2619) Batumi GEO 2019 [Roiz,M]. Still, it doesn't feel as energetic as the text.]

13...a6 It is difficult to allow the knight to stay on b5 for too long, although this move weakens b6. It is difficult to allow the knight to stay on b5 for too long, although this move weakens b6.
[Worthy of attention is also Worthy of attention is also 13...b6!? , which was introduced by Sveshnikov expert Boris Gelfand: Carlsen,M (2863)-Gelfand,B (2676) chess24.com INT 2020 [Roiz,M] , which was introduced by Sveshnikov expert Boris Gelfand: Carlsen,M (2863)- Gelfand,B (2676) chess24.com INT 2020 [Roiz,M] 14.Be2 Szabo,Krisztian Be7 15.g3 a6 16.Nc3 b5 The only good move at the position, so showing that 13...b6 was a tempo wasted. 17.cxb5± Carlsen,M (2863)-Gelfand,B (2676) chess24.com INT 2020]
[13...Be7? Szabo,Krisztian 14.c5!±]

14.Nc3 Be7
[14...f5 was successfully employed by Magnus in Van Foreest,J (2612)-Carlsen, M (2835) Wijk aan Zee NED 2019 [Roiz,M]. However, the text looks safer. was successfully employed by Magnus in Van Foreest,J (2612)-Carlsen, M (2835) Wijk aan Zee NED 2019 [Roiz,M]. However, the text looks safer. Szabo,Krisztian: '(Van Foreest,J (2612)-Carlsen,M (2835) Wijk aan Zee 2019)' 15.Na4 Szabo,Krisztian f4 16.Bd3 16.♗b6 with the plan of long castling and ♗a5 soon, is also possible. Nxh4! The only good nove here. 17.Rxh4 fxe3 18.fxe3 Be7 19.Rxh5 Rxh5 20.Bg6+ Kd8 21.Bxh5⩲ White has an edge with the pawn up, but Black has good compensation with bishop pair.]
[14...a5 Szabo,Krisztian was Carlsen's choice in one of the decisive tie-break games against Caruana. Black does not want the white knight to go to b6. 15.Qb3 a4 16.Qd1± Caruana,F (2832)-Carlsen,M (2835) London 2018]

15.Na4 A challenging move for Black: the appearance of the knight on b6 seems to be annoying: at the very least Black will concede the light-squared bishop. Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' '!' A challenging move for Black: the appearance of the knight on b6 seems to be annoying: at the very least Black will concede the light-squared bishop.
[The somewhat more timid 15.g3 was also tried by Sergey this year: 0-0 16.Be2 b5! 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxh5 Bd8! Black had excellent compensation for a pawn, but eventually lost in Karjakin,S - Carlsen, M Stavanger 2021 Black had excellent compensation for a pawn, but eventually lost in Karjakin,S - Carlsen,M Stavanger 2021]

15...Qc7 16.Bb6 I am pretty sure that this innovation was prepared by Sergey just for rapid. I am pretty sure that this innovation was prepared by Sergey just

for rapid.

[16.g3!? was tested in a correspondence game: Bg4 17.Nb6 Rd8 18.Bg2 0-0 19.f3 Bc8 20.0-0-0 Black's position was a bit cramped, but the potential e5-e4 break offers him definite counterplay. Vieites,C - Kural,A ICCF email 2018 Black's position was a bit cramped, but the potential e5-e4 break offers him definite counterplay. Vieites,C - Kural, A ICCF email 2018]

16...Qc8 17.Ba5 White insists on occupying b6. **17...Bxa4** Undoubtedly, this is the most natural reaction to White's last move.

[The cold-blooded 17...Rb8!? 18.Nb6 Qc7= seems to offer Black acceptable play: seems to offer Black acceptable play: 19.g3 *(19.Na8* is a nice way to call it a day: *Qc8 20.Nb6 Qc7=)* 19...0-0 20.Be2 e4 21.Bxh5 *(21.Na8!? Qc8 22.Nb6±)* 21...Ne5⩲ The awkward location of White's pieces starts to tell. The awkward location of White's pieces starts to tell.]

18.Qxa4+ b5! GM Mamedov correctly sacrifices the pawn - the coordination between his pieces is worth it. GM Mamedov correctly sacrifices the pawn - the coordination between his pieces is worth it. Szabo,Krisztian: 'Black sacrifices the pawn for good compensation, otherwise, White advantage would have become bigger.'

[After 18...Kf8 19.g3 e4 20.Qc2 f5 21.Be2 Ne5 22.Bd2± White has a slight, but long-lasting positional advantage due to his bishop pair and good prospects on the q-side. White has a slight, but long-lasting positional advantage due to his bishop pair and good prospects on the q-side.]

19.cxb5 0-0 Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' '!'

[19...axb5 1.23/19 19...0-0 0.29 Szabo,Krisztian 20.Qxb5+±]

20.b6

[After 20.bxa6 Rxa6! 21.Bxa6 Qxa6 22.0-0-0 Ra8 23.b4 With the idea Kb1. Nf4⩲ the pinned Ba5 and the unsafe Kc1 put White in an uncomfortable situation. the pinned Ba5 and the unsafe Kc1 put White in an uncomfortable situation.]

20...Qc5 21.Rd1 Sergey reasonably covers the Pd5.

[The original way of activating the rook: The original way of activating the rook: 21.Rh3 Hoping for Rc3. Nf4 22.Rc3 Qxd5 23.g3 Ne6⇄ was hardly more promising as the knight reaches d4.]

21...Bd8! Again, Rauf is on top. Again, Rauf is on top. **22.Qb4** The Pb6 is gone, but White manages to trade queens.

22...Qxb4+ 23.Bxb4 Bxb6 24.Bxd6 Szabo,Krisztian: 'White keeps the extra pawn and the bishop pair. Even if less developed, Black is the one that needs to prove compensation and it's very easy to fall if they play a bit more passive here. ' **24...Rfd8?!** Till now both sides were playing very well, but this is a step in the wrong direction. Till now both sides were playing very well, but this is a step in the wrong direction.

[Much better was 24...Rfc8! Szabo,Krisztian: 'was better and fa rmore active.' 25.Bb4 Black should prevent Bc3. *(25.Bd3 Nf4 26.0-0 Nxd3! 27.Rxd3 Bd4=)* 25...Rc2 26.Rd2 Rc1+ 27.Ke2 e4⇄ with sufficient counterplay.]

25.Ba3 Ba5+

[After 25...Nf4 26.d6 the passer is too strong.]

26.b4

[26.Ke2 Szabo,Krisztian Nf4+ 27.Kf3 Bc4 is the strong threat. Nxd5 28.Bc4 Nb4 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Re1⩲ White is still slightly better, due to the bishop pair advantage. Nevertheless, the bishop on a3 is very limited at the moment.]

26...Bc7?! This is too passive. Szabo, Krisztian: '?' '?' '?'

[More to the point was: 26...Bb6 Szabo,Krisztian: 'The bishop would have been more active here.' 27.Bc1 Bd4⩲ with good chances for a successful defence. with good chances for a successful defence.]

27.Bb2?! 0.06/17 Sergey is returns the favor. Szabo,Krisztian: '?' '?' '?' Szabo,Krisztian: 'White also misses the chance to use the dark-squared bishop to counter Black's counterplay.'

[After 27.Bc1! Szabo,Krisztian: 'Now the bishop can control f4 and reduce the threat of ...♘f4 from Black.' Nf4 Prevents Rh3. 28.Bxf4 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Giving the bishop pair, but keeping the extra pawn.' exf4 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Just some moments ago, with had a passive bishop on a3 and a better positioned black knight on g6, so, for sure, White is the winner of these last developments.' 29.Rh3!± White manages to maintain a material advantage. Szabo, Krisztian: '±' '±' '±' White manages to maintain a material advantage.]

[Better is 27.Bc1⩲ 0.59/13]

27...Nf4= 28.a3 a5! A decent move. Black's lead in development feels serious now. A decent move. Black's lead in development feels serious now.

[28...Nxd5? 1.12/21 28...a5 0.25 29.Rh3!±]

29.g3 Nxd5 Szabo,Krisztian: 'The position is now equal.' **30.b5** This is the only real attempt to play for a win.

[30.Bg2?! e4±]

30...e4

[Deserving of serious attention is Deserving of serious attention is 30...a4!? 31.Be2 Ba5+ 32.Kf1 Nc3 , and Black should achieve a draw. , and Black should achieve a draw.]

31.Be2 Rab8? A loss of tempo. Szabo, Krisztian: '?!' '?!' '?!'

[Rauf should have activated the queen's rook with Rauf should have activated the queen's rook with 31...Bb6 Szabo,Krisztian: 'was needed.' 32.0-0 e3 33.f4 Rac8⇄ Black is not worse.]

32.0-0

[32.Bxh5 Rxb5 33.Bd4 Rb3-+]

32...e3 0.94/23 Szabo,Krisztian: '?!' '?!' '?!'

[32...Bb6⩲ 0.42/15]

33.f4± The b-passer and the bishops pair make Black's position difficult. The b-passer and the bishops pair make Black's position difficult.

[33.Bxh5 Rxb5 34.Bc1 *(34.fxe3? g6-+)* 34...exf2+ 35.Kxf2 Rc8∓]

33...Bb6 34.Kg2! Rbc8 35.Kf3! Szabo,Krisztian: '!' '!' '!'

[35.Rc1 Rxc1 36.Rxc1 Nxf4+ 37.gxf4 Rd2=]

35...Rc2 36.Be5? 0.00/25 This could have spoiled a lot... This could have spoiled a lot... Szabo,Krisztian: 'This was a rapid game, so some mistakes are more expected.'

[36.Bd4 Szabo,Krisztian: '±' '±' '±'. Threatens to win with Bxb6. Rdc8 37.Bxb6 Nxb6 38.Rfe1!±]

[36.Bd4± 0.92/27 Bxb6 would now be deadly. Rdc8 37.Bxb6 Nxb6 38.Rd6 *(38.Kxe3? Re8+ 39.Kf3 Rcxe2-+)*]

36...Rd2!= Now Black has sufficient counterplay. Now Black has sufficient counterplay. **37.Rc1 Ne7 38.a4 Nf5** Szabo,Krisztian: '?!' '?!' '?!'

[Simpler is 38...Ra2 39.Rfd1 Rad2=]

[38...f6 Szabo,Krisztian 39.Bc3=]

39.Rc6 f6? 1.16/21 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Now it's just one move too late.'

[Correct was 39...Bd4 White must now prevent ...Bxe5. 40.Bc7 Re8 41.Bxa5 0.02/21 , and then *(41.Rc4± 0.44/16)* 41...Bc5!!= enables Black to save the game: 42.Bxd2 exd2 43.Bd1! Nd4+ 44.Kg2 Nxc6 45.bxc6 And now a5! would win. Bb6!=]

[39...Bd4= 0.19/14 keeps the balance. 40.Bc7 Rd7]

40.Bc3!±

[40.Rxb6 fxe5 41.Bc4+ Kh7 42.fxe5 Nd4+ 43.Kf4 *(43.Kxe3? Nc2+ 44.Kf4 R2d4+ 45.Kg5 Rxc4-+)* 43...Nc2-+ *(43...e2 44.Re1=)*]

40...Rc2 2.44/24

[After 40...Nd4+? 2.54/19 40...Rxe2 0.70 41.Bxd4! Bxd4 42.Rb1+- the b-passer should decide the game in White's favor.]

[40...Rxe2± 1.14/23 41.Kxe2 Nxg3+ 42.Kf3 Nxf1 43.Rxb6 Nd2+ 44.Ke2 Nb3]

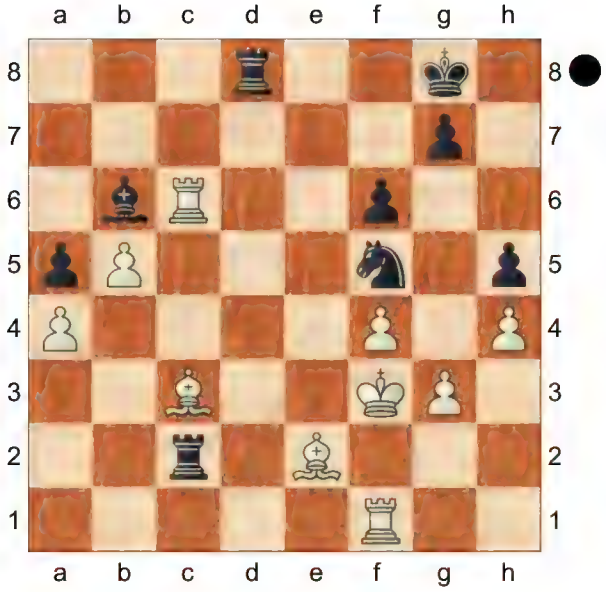
41.Bd1?? -3.61/19 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Blunder. From winning to losing.'

[White should have won with White should have won with 41.Rd1! Szabo,Krisztian: '+-' '+-' '+-'. aiming for Rxd8+. Szabo,Krisztian: 'and White has a decisive advantage.' Rxd1 3.29/18 *(⌓41...Rb8* 2.30/18 *42.Rd3 Rxc3 43.Rcxc3 Nd4+ 44.Rxd4 Bxd4)* 42.Bxd1+- Rf2+ 43.Ke4 Nxg3+ 44.Kd5+-]

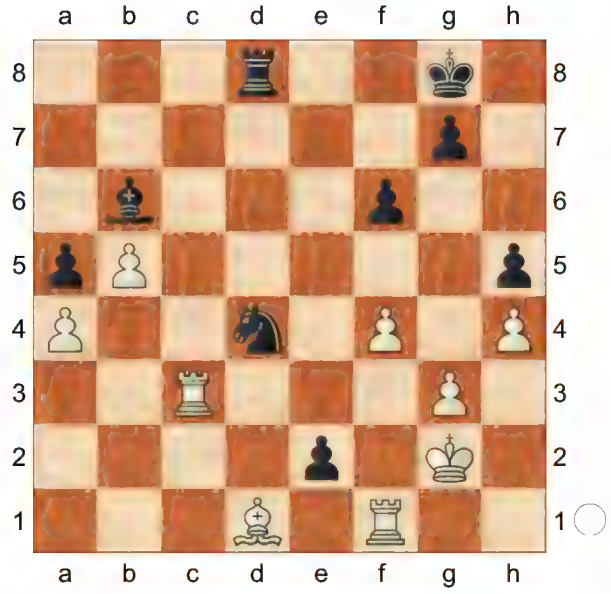
[41.Rd1!+- 2.44/24 Rxd1 42.Bxd1]

Luckily for Sergey, this carelessness wasn't punished. **41...Rxc3??** 2.32/11 Rauf misses a golden opportunity to gain the upper hand! Szabo,Krisztian: 'But, of course, rapid games and time troubles, allow these things to happen. Humans are still no machines.'

[41...e2! 42.Bxe2



Re8! (-> ...Re3+) 43.Bc4+ Kf8-+ , and the Kf3 is helpless.]
[41...e2!-+ -3.61/19 42.Bxe2 *(42.Bxc2? exf1Q+ 43.Ke4 Nxg3#)* 42...Re8 *(42...Rxc3+? 43.Rxc3 Nd4+* Deflection *44.Kg2+-)* 43.Bc4+ Kh7]
42.Rxc3+- Nd4+ 3.62/22
[⌓42...Re8 2.20/9]
43.Kg2!+- e2

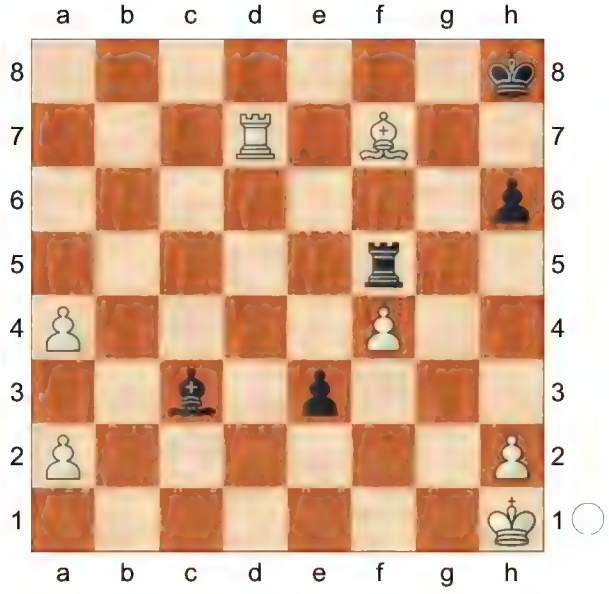


44.Bxe2! Nxe2 45.Rc6+- Now White is absolutely winning. **45...Ba7 46.b6**
[Less strong is 46.Ra6 Bd4± *(46...Nxg3? 47.Kxg3 Bd4 48.b6+-)*]
46...Bb8? 5.38/20
[Don't blunder 46...Nd4? 47.Rd1 Bxb6 *(47...Nxc6?* too greedy. *48.Rxd8+ Kh7 49.bxa7+-)* 48.Rxb6+-]
[46...Bxb6 3.32/19 47.Rxb6 Rd4]
47.b7+- Nd4 48.Rc8 Rf8 49.Rd1 Ne6 50.f5 Szabo,Krisztian: 'Despite being a rapid game and these blunders in the end, the opening was a very well played battle and so, good as a model game for this 8...♘e7 9.c4 ♘g6 variation.'
1-0

B33
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2864**
■ **Moiseenko,Alexander** **2602**
tornelo.com (Int.-rapid) 152/12 2022
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
RR: 'Inf 86/(139)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.c3 Bg7 15.Qh5 e4 16.Bc2 Qc8 17.Rae1 0-0 18.Bb3 a5 19.Nxb5 a4! 20.Bd1**
[20.Nxd6 Qd7 21.Nxf5 Qxf5 22.Qxf5 Nxf5∓]
20...Qc5 21.Nd4
[21.Be2 Nxd5 22.Qg5 h6 23.Qg3 Rab8 24.Nxd6 f4 25.Nxe4 fxg3 26.Nxc5 Rxb2 27.Nxa4 Rxa2 28.Bb5 Nxc3 29.Nxc3 Bxc3 30.Re2 The Caroakann-Wlamisley,R Curacao m2 2005]
21...Qxd5 22.Re3 Qe5N -0.08/12
[22...Rfb8∓ -0.57/13 23.Rh3 Rxb2 *(23...h6 24.b3 a3 25.Bc2 Rc8 26.Rd1 Qe5* Vallejo Pons,F (2635)-Van Wely,L (2681) (ol) 86/(139) 2002 *)* 24.Qxh7+ Kf8]
23.Rh3= The position is equal. **23...h6 24.f4 Qf6 25.Kh1 Kh7 26.g4 Qg6 27.Nxf5 Nxf5 28.Qxf5 Qxf5 29.gxf5 Bf6 30.b3 d5** And now ...Rfc8 would win. **31.bxa4 Rfc8 32.Bb3 Ra5 33.Rd1 Rxc3**
[Much weaker is 33...Bxc3?! 34.Rxd5 Rxd5 35.Bxd5±]
34.Rxc3 Bxc3 35.Bxd5 Endgame. KRB-KRB
[35.Rxd5? is the wrong capture. e3 36.Rd7 *(36.Rxa5? e2-+)* 36...e2 37.Rxf7+ Bg7-+ *(37...Kh8? 38.Rf8+*

Kh7 39.Rf7+ Bg7 40.Re7-+)]
35...e3 36.Bxf7 Rxf5
[36...e2!? 37.Bg6+□ Kh8 38.Rd8+ Kg7 39.Rd7+ Kf8 40.Rd8+ Kg7 41.Rd7+ Kg8 42.Rd8+ Kg7=]
37.Rd7 Kh8



Threatens to win with ...e2! **38.Bc4 Rxf4 39.Bd3 Rf2** Strongly threatening ...Rd2! **40.Re7 Rxa2 41.Rxe3 Rxa4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless) .
Mistake: --- Black=1
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=11 Black=10
Best: White=2 ---
Strong: --- Black=1 . Loss on time!?
1-0

B33
□ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2645**
■ **Salem,AR Saleh** **2690**
World Rapid 2021 (11.9) 28.12.2021
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 This move is mainly aimed at playing a4-a5, when White could retreat his knight to a3, so the pawn is covered. **12...a6 13.Na3** White has an edge. **13...a5** A relatively quiet choice, that mostly leads to a long strategic struggle.
[The ambitious 13...f5 is analyzed in detail on our site: 14.a5 e4 *(14...f4* is covered in Korobov - Rios *)* 15.Nc4 Ne5! 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3 Bf6 *(*Worse is *18...g5?* 0.74/10 18...Bf6 0.36 Caruana,F (2832) -Carlsen, M (2835) London ENG 2018 [Roiz,M] *)* 19.c3 g5 This complicated position feels more comfortable for White, as we can see in the notes to Svidler,P (2735)- Caruana,F (2819) Karlsruhe/ Baden Baden GER 2019 [Roiz,M]]
14.Nc4
[14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4 Nc5 16.Nb5 Ne4 17.Ra3 Bd7 18.Kh1 Bxb5 19.Bxb5 f5 20.Raf3 Bf6 21.c3 Qe7 22.g4 Be5 23.Bxe5 dxe5 24.Bd3 Qc5 25.Bxe4 fxe4 26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 28.Kg2 Qe3 4.a3Ba6/ 10.Be2 (2585)-Grankin,F (2655) TCh-AUT 2016-17 (5) ½-½]
14...b6 15.f4N
[15.c3 f5 16.f4 Bb7 17.Be3 Rc8 The Sveshnikov - 7th move alt-Move

Alternative]

15...exf4! GM Salem demonstrates his good preparation in this trendy line. This move was suggested as an improvement over

[15...Ba6 Oparin,G (2602)-Gelfand, B (2697) Moscow 2017 [Roiz,M]]

16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 White shows his intention to make progress with ..b2-b4.

[White achieves nothing with 17.Ra3 Joeres,S - Gschnitzer,O Walldorf 2017 f5 18.Kh1 Ba6 19.Nd2 Bxe2 20.Qxe2 Bg5= Black has no problems at all.]

17...f5 A decent move: Black not only takes control of e4, but also starts his expansion on the k-side.

[Equally good is 17...Bd7 18.Re1 Re8 19.Bf1 Bf8 , and White has nothing better than simplifying matters: 20.Bxd6 Bxd6 21.Nxd6 Bxa4 22.Rxe8+ Bxe8= Haugen,A - Richter,W GER email 2019]

18.Be3 A novelty. GM Niemann reasonably focuses on the weak Pb6.

[18.b4 Ne4 19.Ra3 -0.23/10 , as in Starosta,M - Urh,Z Chess.com INT 2020 *(⌓19.b5* 0.19/11 *)* 19...Bf6= can be well met by 20.Qd3 Qc7 , and Black's position looks more comfortable.]

18...Ba6 In my opinion, this isn't the most accurate.

[It made sense to connect the rooks by means of 18...Bd7 19.b3 Qc7 , and Black has nothing to worry about.]

19.Qc2

[Worthy of attention is 19.Na3!? Bxe2 20.Qxe2 , and now Black has to take the pawn - otherwise White will occupy the weak light squares for free. Nxa4 21.Nb5 Nc5 22.Bxc5 bxc5 Visually, this position looks somewhat scary for Black, but there is nothing special. For instance, 23.Qe6+ Kh8 24.Rxf5 Rxf5 25.Qxf5 Qb6=]

19...Bg5 20.Bd4

[After 20.Bxc5 bxc5 21.Rxf5 Qe7 Threatens to win with ...Rxf5. 22.Raf1 g6 the strong Bg5 provides Black full compensation for a pawn.]

[20.Rxf5 Rxf5 21.Bxc5 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Rf4-+]

20...g6 21.b4 Bxc4! It is a good moment to liquidate the nasty knight. The pressure on the Pb6 is neutralized.

22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 White acquires a nice outpost for his bishop. **23...Bf6**

24.Bf2? -1.27/23 White bravely sacrifices the exchange, but this is an incorrect decision.

[The balance would have been kept after 24.Qf2 Bxd4 25.Qxd4=]

[24.Qd2= -0.10/16 remains equal.]

24...Rc8 -0.68/22

[Good enough was also 24...axb4 25.cxb4 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Ne5! 27.Bc6 Rb8!∓ ,and Black's material advantage prevails.]

[24...axb4∓ -1.27/23 25.cxb4 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Ne5]

25.Bc6 Ne5!? -0.40/22 GM Salem chooses the most practical way - the strong Bc6 doesn't bother him, since White cannot make any progress on the q-side.

[25...axb4∓ -0.87/23 26.cxb4 Bxa1 27.Rxa1 Ne5]

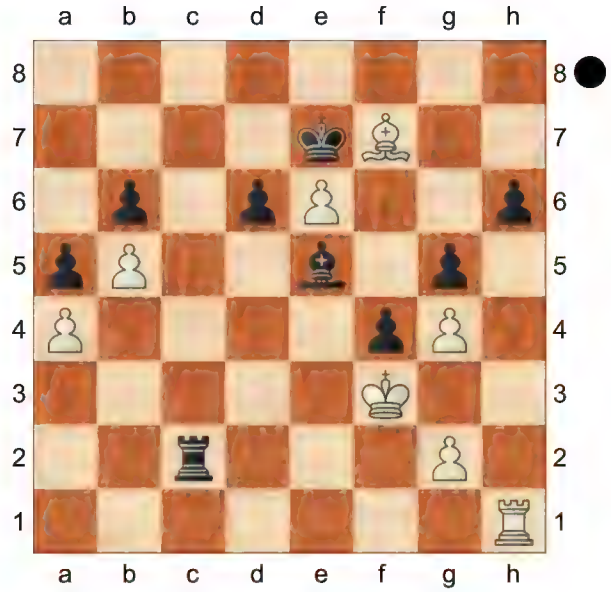
26.b5? -1.22/17 This is exactly what Black needed!

[It was better to give up the pawn: 26.Bd4 Nxc6 27.dxc6 Rxc6∓]

[26.Qd1∓ -0.40/22]

26...Ng4!∓ From now on Black is firmly

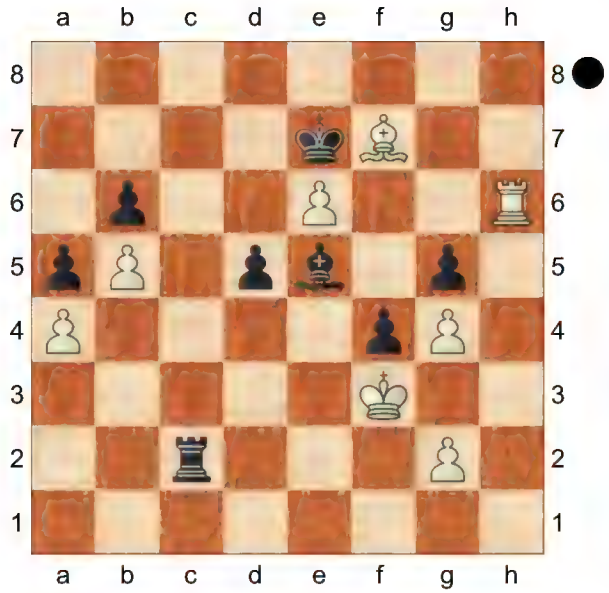
in control. **27.Rae1 Be5!** The attack plays itself. **28.h3 Nxf2 29.Qxf2**
[29.Rxf2 -2.23/11 29.Qxf2 -1.40 Bg3!-+]
29...Bxc3 30.Re6 Bb4? -0.65/11
[Stronger was 30...f4! 31.Qf3 Bd4+ 32.Kh1 Rc7 33.Rfe1 Qh4 , and Black is nearly winning.]
[30...f4!∓ -1.43/10 31.Kh1 Kg7]
31.Kh1∓ f4 32.Re4! Bc5 33.Qe2
[More accurate is 33.Qf3! Be3 34.g3! Rc7 35.gxf4 Bc5! 36.Qe2∓]
33...Qg5 34.Re7 -1.63/14 Dodges Rc7
[A correct defensive approach was 34.Bd7! Rc7 35.Be6+! Kg7 36.Qb2+! Qf6 37.Qc1 g5 38.h4 h6! 39.h5 and it is very tough for Black to make any progress.]
[34.Bd7!∓ -0.38/10 Rc7 35.Re7]
34...Be3 35.Re6 -2.12/10
[⌓35.Re4 -1.63/8]
35...Rc7?! -1.12/14
[Black should have prevented White's next move with 35...Rf5! , and if 36.Qg4 Qxg4 37.hxg4 then Rg5 wins another pawn.]
[35...Rf5!-+ -2.12/10 36.Kh2 Rcf8]
36.Qg4∓ Qxg4 -0.44/12
[Black should try 36...Qd8!∓ -1.14/10 Hoping for ...Kg7. 37.h4 Rcf7]
37.hxg4∓ Bc5 38.Kh2 g5 39.Rf3 -1.44/12
[⌓39.Kh3 -0.76/11]
39...Rcf7? -0.38/18 Another inaccurate move, that could have spoiled a lot.
[39...h5! 40.Kh3 h4!∓]
[39...h5!∓ -1.44/12 40.gxh5 g4]
40.Be8! Rf6 -0.15/11
[40...Rc7∓ -0.73/9]
41.Bh5!= An excellent manoeuvre! White should hold it now. **41...Bd4** White must now prevent ...Rc8. **42.Rd3?** -2.11/11 Alas, Hans fails to handle this interesting endgame well. Black continues to play with concentration.
[The rook's activation was called for: 42.Re4! Be5 -0.70/8 *(42...Be3=* -0.30/22 *)* 43.Rc4!=]
[42.Re4!= -0.07/11 Bc5 43.Kh1]
42...Be5!-+ 43.Kg1 Rc8 Now Black has a decisive advantage. **44.Rd1 Kf8** Repels Re7 **45.Kf2 Rc2+ 46.Kf3 Rc3+ 47.Kf2 Rxe6 48.dxe6** Endgame. KRB-KRB **48...Ke7 49.Bf7 h6** A decent prophylactic move. **50.Rh1 Rc2+ 51.Kf3**



d5! 52.Rd1 Prevents Bd4.
[Or 52.Rxh6? -#2/9 52.Rd1 -2.63

(Diagram)

Bd4!-+]
52...Rc3+ 53.Ke2 d4 54.Rh1 Re3+ 55.Kd2 Bd6
[Simpler was 55...f3 56.gxf3 Bf4-+]
56.Bg6 Bb4+
[Resist 56...Kxe6 57.Rxh6 Ke5 58.Bf5-+]
57.Kc2 Rc3+
[57...Kxe6 58.Rxh6 Rc3+ 59.Kb1-+]
58.Kb2 Ba3+



[Much less strong is 58...Kxe6 59.Bf5+ Kd5 60.Re1]

59.Ka2 Kxe6 60.Rxh6? -5.08/18

[60.Rh3 -2.69/9 might work better. Rxh3 61.gxh3]

60...Bc5 Black's pieces dominate over the board. Also, he is a pawn up.

61.Be4+? -4.37/9

[61.Rh3 -2.59/8 Rxh3 62.gxh3]

61...Ke5 62.Bf3 d3 The rest is just agony. **63.Rg6 Kd4 64.Rxg5 Kc4** Not the only, but most elegant way. **65.Rf5 Ra3+ 66.Kb2 Rb3+ 67.Ka2 Kc3** (-> ...Rb2+) **68.Rxc5+**

[68.Rxf4 Rb2+ 69.Ka1 Rf2 , and checkmate is to follow.]

68...bxc5 69.g5 Rb2+ 70.Ka1 Rf2 71.b6

(Diagram)

Rxf3! Promotion.

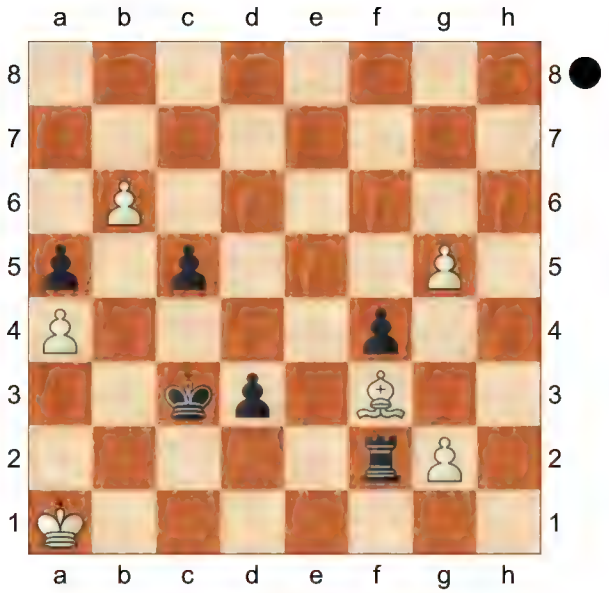
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.15 (very precise) .

Loses game: White=1 ---

Mistake: White=7

Black=7

Inaccurate: White=4



Black=1

OK: White=14

Black=24

Best: White=2

Black=6

Strong: White=2

Black=2

0-1

B33

□ **Ter Sahakyan,Samvel** **2630**

■ **Indjic,Aleksandar** **2628**

SRB-chT Premier (5) 24.09.2022

[Ter Sahakyan,Samvel, MH]

Slow 90min+30sec B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 I was invited to play Serbian club championship for Naftagas Elemir,in round 5 faced very strong local player Aleksandar Indjic. **1...c5** Against Caro-Kann I have played many different lines including 3.e5,3.nc3,even recently in some blitz games 3.f3,this time decided to play exchanged variaton. **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3** Black has many other interesting

options like 5...nf6 with the idea to develop bishop on g4 or 5...qc7 stopping 6.bf4. **5...e5** Black is aiming for bd6 nge7 setup. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3** Sooner or later white need re1 move so no point to delay it.We got reversed version of Nimzo with 4.e3,let's say 1.d4 nf6 2.c4 e6 3.nc3 bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.nge2 compare to Nimzo here white seems tempos up, 1)white started the game,2)and white got bishop on d3 spending only one tempo,usually in Nimzo you get your bishop on d6 after developing it first on b4. **8...b5 9.Nd5** As already I mentioned above I was familiar with the character of the position since I played similar positions by reversed color. **9...Be7 10.Bxf6** Usually you don't play c3-c4 when opponent's pawn is on f7, you wait for f7-f6 with the ideas of e6-e5 then you push c3-c4 to make e6 weak after dxc4,but here white has option of taking on c4 with b pawn. **10...Bxf6** Already white had some annoying threats like nb1-c3 and c4-c5,here I considered except 11.re2 other options also like 11.re3 making 11...0-0 impossible because of 12.bxh7+ and with the rook on e3 white will pose a lot of problems,but didn't play 11.re3 because it felt to me too artificial,what does rook do on e3 if black is not playing 11...0-0,don't think I really had 11.nbd2 because of 11...bc3 and d4 pawn is hanging,but 11. bd2 was decent option and would keep some edge for white. **11.c3** White is preparing a2-a3 ideas. **11...0-0** Anyway black needs a7-a6 to make a2-a3 b3-b4 and nb1-c3 less attractive for white. **12.Nc2 Rb8**

[12...Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4]

13.Be2

[13.h4 Be7 Engine recommends to simply retreat the knight with overwhelming advantage,but I wanted to play 19.ne5 and if black trades the dark squared bishop then white gets his knight on d6 if black enters to tactics with 19...nxd4 20.nxc7+ qxc7 21.re1 with the ideas bb2 or bf4. 14.Nce3]

13...Bg5 White were threatening b3-b4, Aleksandar went 13...qb8 to meet 14.b4 with the 14...bc7 and qb8 also doesn't allow bf4. **14.0-0?!** Don't like this decision,the whole point of h4 to stop f6-g5 or any g5 but as we will see some moves later Aleksandar played g5 anyway,then what was the point to spend tempo and play h4 if it doesn't stop g5.

[14.Qd3 a5 15.0-0 Be6 White is threatening nxc7 and rxb7 and please just compare kings situation and the evaluation will be obvious. *(15...Ne7?!* With the king on f7 I don't think e6-e5 ideas are possible or any advance on kingside. *)*]

14...g6 15.Qd3

[15.Nce3]

15...Kh8 16.Rfd1 f5 17.Bf3 White has an edge. **17...a5 18.Nde3 f4N** Quite logical,black takes control over e5 square.

[18...Bxe3 19.Nxe3 f4 20.Nd5 Be6 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3]

19.Nd5

[19.Qxd6 -0.45/26 19.Nd5 0.27 Qxd6 0.23/16 *(19...fxe3∓* -0.45/26 *20.Qxc6 exf2+ 21.Kxf2 Qe7)* 20.Rxd6= fxe3 21.Rxc6 exf2+ 22.Kxf2 Rd8 ...Rd2+ is the strong threat. 23.Re1 Bb7 24.Rc5 Rd2+ 1.61/10

(24...b4!± 0.40/11 *)* 25.Re2+- Rxe2+ 26.Kxe2 Bc1 1.83/11 *(26...Bf4±* 1.47/17 was worth a try. *27.Ne3 Rc8 28.Rxc8+ Bxc8)* 27.Ne1!+- Nd3 would now be deadly. Bxb2+- 0.93/10 *(27...Rc8+-* 1.89/23 *28.Rxc8+ Bxc8)* 28.Nd3!± Ba1 29.Rxe5 Rd8 30.Rc5 Bc8 31.Nf4 0.17/13 Repels Be6 *(31.Rc6!±* 0.78/19 *)* 31...g5= 32.Rxg5 And now Rc5 would win. Bxc3 33.Nd5 Bg7 34.Bg4? -2.18/21 Wards off Be6 *(34.Nc7=* 0.12/10 *)* 34...h6± 0.15/19 *(34...Bh6-+* -2.18/21 *35.Bxc8 Bxg5)* 35.Rg6= Black must now prevent Kf3. Kh7 36.Ne7 *(36.Bh5!?)* 36...Bf8+- 2.61/22 *(36...Bxg4+!=* 0.00/12 *37.Rxg4 a4)* 37.Bxc8+- Here both moves secures winning position for white. Rxc8 3.80/12 *(⌓37...Bxe7* 2.51/12 *38.Bf5 Kh8)* 38.Rxh6++- Kxh6 39.Nxc8 Kg5 7.41/23 *(⌓39...a4* 4.87/22 *40.Kd3 Kg5)* 40.Na7+- b4 41.Nc6 a4 Engine recommends 29.rcb1, later on I will understand and place my rook on b1 but not now,we are humans dear readers. 42.Kd3 According to engines best for white is to play 27.nd6 bxd6 28.cxd6 qxd6 29.bb5 and all dark squares are very weak. Kf4 43.e5 Kf5 44.Kc4 Ke6 45.Nxb4 Unfortuna tely 24.qh5 kd8 25.nf3 doesn't work because of 25...be8 and white's queen is trapped, that's why I included 24.rfb2 bc8. Kxe5 46.Nd3+ Ke4 47.Nc5+ Ke3+- 48.Nxa4 Kf2+-]

19...Qd7 20.b4

[20.h3 is interesting. Bh4 21.b4 h5 22.Na3]

20...axb4 21.cxb4 Qb7 22.Nc3

A dynamic duo of knights.

[22.a4 bxa4! 23.Rxa4]

22...Be7 23.h3 0.41/14

[23.a4± 0.85/20]

23...Be6± 24.Nd5 Bd8 25.a4 bxa4

If 25...kd8 then 26.nf3 with the ideas ng5,that's why Aleksandar placed his king on d7. **26.Rxa4 Ne7 27.Nxe7** Threatening some bxf4 and re2 or re1 wanted to focus and collect e6 pawn.

27...Bxe7 28.Rb1 Bd7 29.Raa1 Bb5

30.Qb3 Initially planed to play 30.qf6 attacking the rook and defending on h4 and preparing ne5 but couldn't see anything concrete after 30...rg8 31.ne5 qg3,didn't have much time on clock and 30.nd6 was very hard to play,if white wants to breakthrough black's position they must trade bad bishop on c8 which defends the whole position. **30...Bd8**

31.Na3 Be8 32.Nc4!

[32.b5 -0.38/18 32.Qd1 0.13 Bb6+- 33.Nc4 Bc5 34.Na5 -0.76/21 *(34.Ra5∓* -0.36/19 should be considered. *)* 34...Qc7]

32...Rf6 Protecting on b7 as you can see below nothing works for black,black's position is too shaky.

[32...Bf7!?]

33.Qd1 Bb6 1.39/6

[Better is 33...Qe7± 0.42/9]

34.Nxb6!± I think the rest is matter of technique.

[34.Nxd6?! Bxf2+ 35.Kh2 Qc6 36.Nxe8 Qxe8=]

34...Qxb6

(Diagram)

35.b5! Qc5

[35...Re6 36.Be2]

36.Rc1 0.99/11

[36.Be2+- 1.87/18]

36...Qb6 1.76/19

[36...Qxb5? too greedy. 37.Rcb1+-]

[36...Qd4± 0.99/11]

37.Ra6 0.56/21 Preparing d5.

[37.Be2+- 1.76/19]

37...Qd8 1.61/20

[37...Qxb5 Small tactic is there. 38.Rxd6]

[Black should try 37...Qxb5± 0.56/21 38.Rxd6 Rf8]

38.Ra7 1.25/19

[38.Bg4+- 1.61/20]

38...Rf7 39.Rxf7 Again d5 is a huge threat. **39...Bxf7 40.Rc6!** 0.09/17

[40.Be2± 1.21/10]

40...Rb6? 3.57/12 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[40...Rxb5]

[40...Rxb5= 0.09/17 and Black stays safe. 41.Rxd6 Qc7]

41.Qc2↑ aiming for Rc8. White is really pushing. **41...Be8** 2.39/8

[41...Rxb5? perishes. 42.Rc8+-]

[41...Kg7 1.63/7 is a better defense.]

(Diagram)

42.Rc8? 5.45/14 Black is weak on the light squares

[42.Rc7! 2.39/8 Rb8 43.b6 Deflection Rxb6 44.Rc8]

42...Qe7 43.Rc7 3.86/20

[⌓43.Qa4 7.73/21]

43...Qd8 44.Rc8 Qe7 45.Be2 Completely winning endgame. **45...h5** 7.64/10

[⌓45...Qd7 4.27/10 46.Qc4 f3 47.Bxf3 *(47.gxf3 Rxb5 48.Rxe8+ Qxe8+-)* 47...h5]

46.Qa2! Improving the king's position.

46...Kg7 47.Qa5 Rb7 5.29/19

[47...f3 3.62/15 was called for.]

48.b6 Not allowing kb5. **48...Bd7**

49.Rc7 Rxc7 50.bxc7 Endgame. KQB-KQB **50...Bc8 51.Qb6 Qg5 52.h4 Qe7 53.Qb8 Qe6** 8.40/22

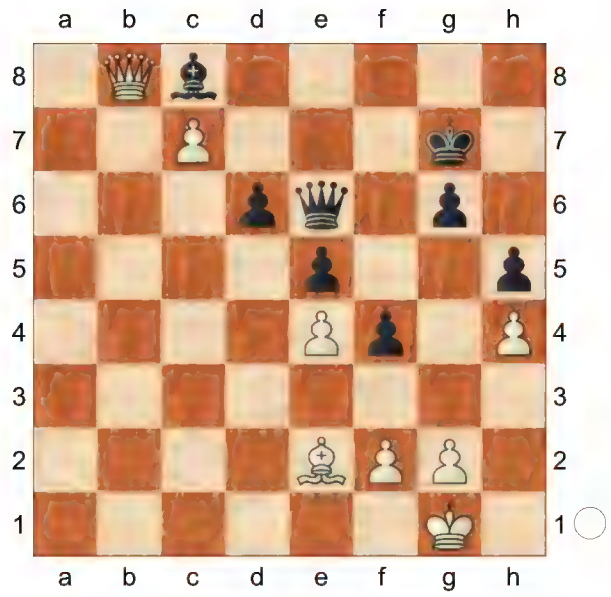
[⌓53...f3 4.99/12 54.Bxf3 Qe8]

(Diagram)

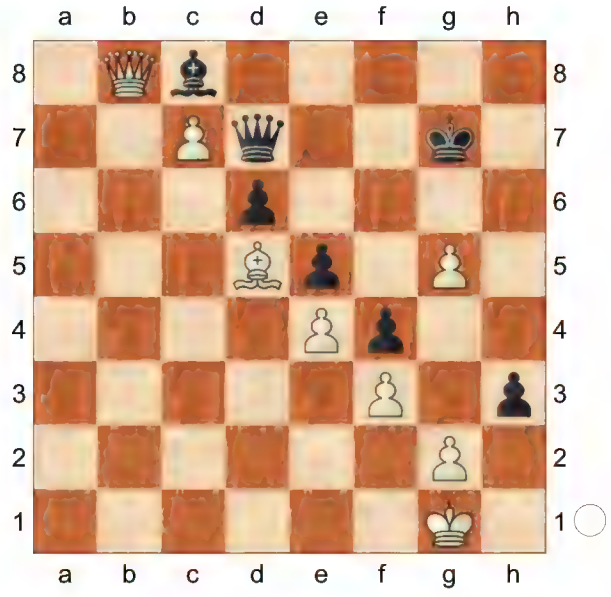
54.Bc4! Deflection **54...Qd7**

[54...d5 55.exd5]

55.f3 g5 56.hxg5 Strongly threatening Bd5. Doesn't matter where black goes with the king white takes on b4 and if king takes back nd5. **56...h4 57.Bd5**



White wants to mate with Bb7. **57...h3**



58.Bb7!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.37.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=7 Black=6
Inaccurate: White=3 Black=3
OK: White=12 Black=7
Best: White=1 Black=1
Strong: White=1 ---
1-0

B33

□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2732**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2862**
Airthings Masters Prelim rapid (4.5)
[Roiz,MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 A favorite weapon of Magnus in recent years, though he has a deep preparation in the Najdorf and the Ruy Lopez as well. **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5** For some reason, this move is by far the most common at the top level nowadays. **9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.g3 g6!?** This natural move was never seen on this site before. Magnus makes g7 vacant for the bishop's retreat, so White has to make a decision now.

[The most common alternative is 13...0-0 14.Bg2 Be6 15.0-0 Rc8 For instance, it was covered in Nisipeanu,L (2667)-Nihal, S (2598) Malmo SWE 2019 [Roiz,M]]

14.Nxf6+ The safest choice - after this exchange White's strategic risk is minimal.

[14.Bg2 leads to a more complex struggle: Bg7 15.0-0 0-0 16.Qd3 Be6 17.b3 *(17.Rad1 Rc8 18.b3 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Nd4 20.Nxd4 exd4* was equal in Cabrera Pino,A - Pecotic,K LSS email 2008 *)* 17...Ra7 18.a3 bxa3 19.Nxa3 Nd4 20.Nb5 Rb7⇄ In this complex position both sides have their positives. Biedermann,T - Dunlop,G ICCF email 2014]

[The most aggressive alternative is 14.h4 0-0 15.Bh3 Be6

A) 16.h5 , as in Pellen,M - Le Page, C ICCF email 2009 can be well met by Bxd5 17.cxd5 *(17.Qxd5 Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4=)* 17...Nb8 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.Qg4 Na6 20.Ne3 Nc5⇄ , and the strong Nc5 compensates for White's activity on the k-side.;

B) 16.Kf1 Bg7 17.Kg2 f5 18.Qd3 Ra7 19.Rad1 Raf7 Black was fine in Elliott,W - Zambrana,O Istanbul 2012]

14...Qxf6 15.Bg2 0-0 16.0-0 Qe7 This retreat looks somewhat passive, though in some cases the queen can be well placed on c5.

[In my opinion the ambitious 16...a4!? is more in the spirit of the Sveshnikov. Play might continue: 17.Qd2 Be6 18.b3 *(*After *18.Nxb4 Nd4 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Rac8 21.Rac1 Rfe8*⩱ The strong Nd4 provides Black decent play for a pawn. *)* 18...Rfc8 19.Rfd1 Qd8 20.Nxb4 This was Palac,M - Ivic, V Tuzla 2019 At this moment Black should have played: Nxb4 21.Qxb4 Rcb8! 22.Qc3 Qa5⩱ The activity of Black's heavy pieces makes it problematic for White to make any progress.]

17.b3 Pentala is playing very accurately.

[White could have tried: 17.f4!? Be6 *(17...exf4 18.gxf4 Bb7 19.Ne3 f5 20.Nd5 Qg7 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Qd2*± *)* 18.b3 f6 19.f5 Bf7 20.h4 Black was somewhat cramped in Odeev,A - Jones,B ICCF email 2018]

17...Be6 18.Qd2 f6 This innovation hardly changes the evaluation - Black has a slightly worse, but solid position.

[After 18...a4 19.f4 axb3 20.axb3 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Bc8

22.f5!± Black managed to hold in Hablizel,F - Cuccumini, V ICCF email 2016, but visually his setup looks quite passive.]

19.Rfd1 Rfd8 20.Qe3

[20.h4!? Somewhat more ambitious was Ra6 21.Kh2 Qa7 22.a4 bxa3 23.Rxa3 White's chances are preferable, though Black retains some counterplay on the b-file.]

20...Qa7 21.Qh6 Qg7 This is a sort of 'silent draw offer'

[The World champion could hardly expect more: 21...a4 22.Bh3 Bf7 23.Rab1 axb3 24.axb3 Qa2 25.Rdc1 White's position is very safe, while Black has some potential weaknesses.]

22.Qe3 Qa7 23.Qh6 Qg7 24.Qe3 Qa7 ½-½

B33

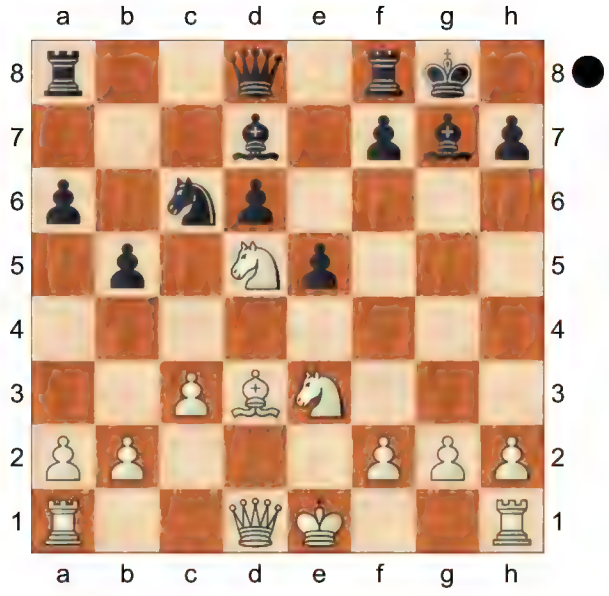
□ **Golubev,Mikhail** **2461**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2804**

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Early blitz (3) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.c3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc2 0-0 14.Nce3 Bd7 15.Bd3

[15.g3 f5 16.Bg2 Rc8 17.0-0 f4 18.Nc2 Bf5 19.Ncb4 Nb8 20.Qe2 a5 21.Nd3 Kh8 22.a4 b4 23.cxb4 Nc6 24.gxf4 Nd4 25.Qd1 e4 26.Ne1 axb4 27.Nxb4 d5 28.Nbc2 Nxc2 29.Nxc2 d4 Daws,H (2536)-3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nd4 (2454) 6/640 Hastings 1967 0-1]



Black must now prevent Qh5. **15...f5 16.0-0 e4 17.Bc2** The position is equal.

17...Kh8N

[17...f4 18.Bxe4 Qe8 19.Qd3 fxe3 20.Bxh7+ Kh8 The Sveshnikov - Attacking 9.-The Novosibirsk Variation 11.,1]

18.Qh5 Be8!? 0.52/14 Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.

[18...Ne5= 0.00/14]

19.Qh3± Bd7 20.Qh5 0.00/24

[20.f3± 0.52/19]

20...Qe8!? An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.

21.Qxe8 Raxe8 22.f4N

[Vorgänger: 22.Rae1 Bh6 23.f3 exf3 24.gxf3 Ne5 And now ...Bxe3+ would win. 25.f4 Ng6 26.Rf2 Rulfs,E (2046)-Firsching,G (2076) GER Cup19 sf24 serv 2013 ½-½]

22...exf3! 23.Rxf3

f4 24.Nxf4 White is now going downhill.

24...Rxe3! Deflection **25.Ng6+** -1.74/20

[25.Rxe3∓ -0.92/25 Rxf4 26.Bb3]

25...hxg6-+ 26.Rxe3 Ne5 27.Bb3 -2.44/17

[⌓27.Rf1 -1.65/18]

27...Bf5 28.Rd1 -2.77/22

[⌓28.Re2 -1.78/21]

28...Rd8 -1.59/10

[Black should play 28...Bh6-+ -2.77/22 29.Ree1 Nd3]

29.a4 -2.29/19

[29.h3∓ -1.59/10 is a better defense.]

29...bxa4 30.Bxa4 Nc4 31.Re8+ Rxe8 32.Bxe8 Be5!
[Not 32...Nxb2 33.Rxd6 Kh7 *(33...Bxc3 34.Bxg6 Bg4 35.Rxa6±)* 34.Rxa6=]
33.Ra1 -1.92/11
[33.b3∓ -1.56/18 Ne3 34.Ra1]
33...Nxb2 34.Rxa6 Kg7
[Resist 34...Bxc3 35.Rxd6 Kg7 36.Bb5=]
35.Bb5 Nd1
[Weaker is 35...Bxc3 36.Rxd6 Kf7 37.h3∓]
36.Rc6 -3.28/22
[⌓36.c4 -2.00/16]
36...Nxc3 37.Bf1 d5 38.Kf2 d4 39.g3 Ne4+ 40.Ke1 -3.98/18
[40.Ke2 -2.72/20 was called for.]
40...Nf6 41.Bc4 Ng4 42.Be6 Be4 43.Ra6 Nxh2 44.Kf2 Nf3 45.Ra7+ Kh6 46.Bg4 Ng5 47.Bd1 d3
Hoping for ...Bd4+. **48.Ra4 Bc6 49.Rh4+ Kg7** ...Ne4+ is the strong threat. **50.Rg4** -3.99/12
[50.Ke3 -2.22/10]
50...Kf6 51.Ke3 Bd7 52.Rb4 Bxg3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.27 (precise) .
Mistake: White=9
Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=11
Black=15
Best: White=1
Black=5
Strong: ---
Black=2
Brilliant: ---
Black=1
0-1

B33
□ **So,Wesley** **2770**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2862**
Skilling Open KO 2020 (3.14) 29.11.2020
[Roiz,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
IM Kushager Krishnater: 'In the third chapter, we will cover the alternate system for White with 7.Nd5. In this chapter, we will cover the positionally sound '8...Nb8'.' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5** Nowadays this can be considered to be one of the main weapons against the Sveshnikov.
7...Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.Qf3
I am not sure if this rare move was seriously analyzed by Wesley or he just prepared it as a surprise for this match.
[9.a4 is what was mainly tested at the highest level in recent years. Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3 a5 14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1]
9...a6 The most common. Black chases the strong Nb5 away.
[Another natural continuation is 9...Be7 , but then 10.Qc3 Na6! Dodges Nc7+ 11.Be3 practically forces Black to sacrifice the pawn 0-0 *(11...b6??* 3.27/21 11...0-0 0.28 *12.Qc6+ Bd7 13.Qb7!+-)* 12.Nxa7 Bg5 This position was tested many times in correspondence games. Then play might continue: 13.Nb5! White has to liberate the knight.

White wants to play Bxg5. *(*After *13.Bxa6 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qa5+ 15.c3 Qxa6 16.Nxc8 Rfxc8* White's king is stuck in the centre, so Black seems to have sufficient compensation for a pawn. *)* 13...Bxe3 14.Qxe3 f5 15.Qa3! *(*The timid *15.Be2* -0.25/22 15.Qa3 0.27 *f4 16.Qd2 Nc5* offers Black more attacking chances. *)* 15...Rf6! 16.0-0-0 f4 17.Rd2 Bf5 And now ...Nc5 would win. 18.Nc3! Nc5 0.51/19 *(18...Rf7*= 0.08/23 *)* 19.Qb4 White's chances were preferable in Ott,P - Blank,W GER email 2007]

10.Qa3 Of course, only by making this move can White justify his play. The whole idea is to put strong pressure on the Pd6. **10...b6N** 0.48/22 Magnus delays the development of his dark-squared bishop for a while.

[In case of 10...Be7 White would most likely react 11.Bg5 , and now Black can either play *(11.Bd2 0-0 12.Bb4 Qd7 13.Be2 b6 14.0-0 Bb7 15.Nxd6 a5 16.Qh3 Qxh3 17.gxh3 Bxd5 18.Rfd1 Nc6 19.Nf5 Bxb4 20.Rxd5 g6 21.Bb5* Chapter-Games Chapter 3 Game 1 *)*

A) Or 11...f6!? 12.Bd2 0-0 *(*After *12...a5?!* 0.87/23 12...0-0 0.08 *13.Qc3* White managed to seize the initiative. Iordachescu,V (2555)-Genocchio,D (2326) Lido Estensi ITA 2002 [Fed] *)* 13.Bb4

A1) 13...axb5 14.Qxa8 Na6 15.Bd2 Qc7 16.c3 Qc5 17.Be3 Qxd5 18.Qa7 f5 19.f3 Nc5 *(19...f4 20.Bf2 Bf5 21.Be2 e4 22.Qd4 Qe6 23.fxe4 Bxe4 24.0-0-0 Nc5 25.Bxb5 f3 26.Rhe1 Bg5+ 27.Be3 f2 28.Bc4 fxe1R 29.Rxe1 d5 30.Bxg5 dxc4 31.Qxc5* Chapter Sveshnikov-7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 2023 *)* 20.Bxb5 Bh4+ 21.Kf1 f4 22.Bxc5 dxc5 23.Qa4 Qd2 24.Qc4+ Kh8 25.Qe2 Rd8 Chapter-Games Chapter 11 Game 1;

A2) 13...Qd7 14.0-0-0 Rd8 The Pd6 is covered now. The position is very complicated, but I don't think Black has any problems. For instance, 15.Bd2 b6! 16.Nc3 Qb7 17.h4 Nd7 18.h5 b5⇄ Valutanu,M - Fass,R ICCF email 2008;

B) 11...Bf5!? 12.Bxe7 Kxe7 13.c4 Black must now prevent c5. Qb6 14.Be2 Nd7 15.Nc3 This position was reached in Carstens Dobuchak,T - Arrebola,D Vitoria 2018 In my opinion, the correct plan was connected with securing c5 for the knight: a5!? 16.b3 Nc5 17.0-0 Rhe8 Black should be fine here.]

[10...Be7= 0.10/25]

11.Bg5± A standard tactical idea in this line. White provokes the somewhat weakening ...f7-f6. Deflection **11...Be7** 0.99/15 Possibly Magnus was aiming to avoid his opponent's preparation as soon as reasonably possible. In any case, this decision is dubious.

[Much better is 11...f6!

A) After 12.Bd2 Threatens to win with Bb4. Bb7 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Qa4+ 0.01/20 *(*Possibly, Wesley's idea was to quickly expand on the k-side with something like *14.g4!?;* White should play *14.0-0-0±* 0.53/24 *)* 14...Nd7= 15.Bd3 g6 Black had nothing to worry about in Ploenes,H - Hartung,T GER email

2003;

B) 12.Be3 Be7 13.Be2 0-0 14.c4 Bb7 15.Nc3 Threatening Qb3. Nd7 16.0-0 f5 17.f4 This complex position offers interesting play for both sides.]

[11...f6± 0.56/21 deserves consideration. 12.Bd2 Bb7]

12.Bxe7± Kxe7 13.0-0-0 A novelty. Wesley chooses the most aggressive setup. Indeed, the Ke7 feels unsafe now, while most of Black's pieces are located on the back rank.

[Quieter way was seen in the following game: 13.c4!? 0.52/23 13.0-0-0 1.03 Bb7 14.Nc3 Nd7 15.Be2 Re8 16.0-0 Qc7 0.93/16 *(16...Nf6± 0.55/19)* 17.Ne4± Black was doomed to passive defence. Perpinya Rofes,L - Jose Abril,R Barcelona 2015]

13...Bb7 Black cannot do without this move, but now the Bb7 is poor. **14.Nc3 Nd7 15.f4!** Again, the most energetic. Wesley is aiming to open files on the k-side as soon as possible. **15...Qc7**

16.fxe5

[Deserving of serious attention is 16.Bd3! exf4 17.Rhe1+ Kf8 18.Qb4 with a powerful initiative.]

16...Nxe5 17.Qb4! The queen did its job on the q-side, so now it can be transferred to the k-side for attacking activity. **17...h5**

[Somewhat safer was 17...h6 18.Be2 Rhe8 19.Qe4±]

18.Be2

[18.Ne4 seems wilder. Rh6 19.Kb1 Re8 20.Be2]

18...Kf8 19.Rhf1 All White's pieces are very active, but the strong Ne5 makes Black's position defendable. **19...Re8 20.Rf5 h4 21.Rf4 Qd8** As usual, Magnus is defending very well. Black's position is still passive, but now White struggles to make progress. **22.Kb1** White is much more active. **22...Rh6 23.Rdd4** 0.32/15

[Somewhat more precise was 23.a4! Bc8 24.Qd4±]

[⌓23.a4 0.68/11]

23...h3 Strongly threatening ...a5. **24.g3 Bc8 25.a4 Kg8 26.Rde4** 0.27/15 It is very tough for Wesley to make any progress at this point.

[26.Rd1± 0.65/12]

26...Qc7= 27.Rh4?! -0.26/11 Exchanging the awkward Rh6 is exactly what Black needs now!

[White should have played 27.Qd4 Qc5 28.Qd1 , maintaining the tension.]

[27.Nd1± 0.40/13]

27...a5 0.29/13

[⌓27...Rxh4 -0.26/11 28.Rxh4 Qc5 29.Qxc5 bxc5]

28.Qd4 Rxh6 is the strong threat.

28...Rxh4 29.Rxh4 0.00/11

[29.gxh4± 0.36/11 is superior. Qd8 30.Re3]

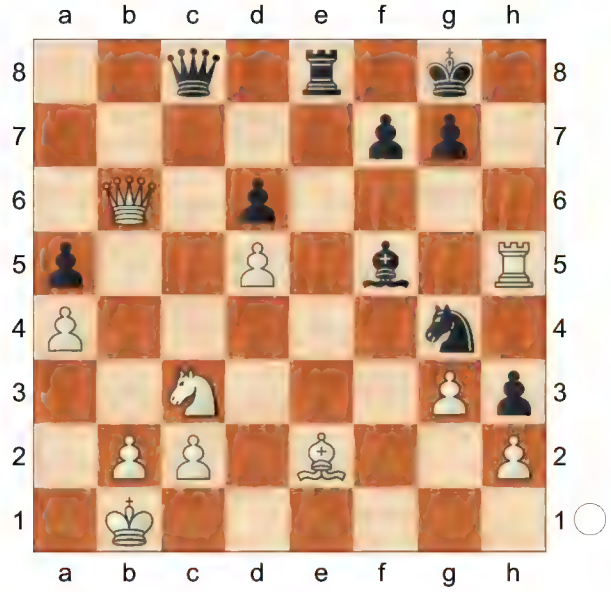
29...Bf5?! 0.54/13 A careless move.

[After 29...Qc5! 30.Qd1 Ng6

Black would have no problems at all. Dodges Bb5]
[29...Qc5= 0.00/11]

30.Rh5±
[Worth attention was 30.g4!? Bd7! 31.Rxh3 Qc5 32.Qxc5 bxc5 33.Re3 White has some chances to convert the extra pawn into a full point.]
[30.g4 simplifies Bd7 31.Rxh3 Qc5 32.Qxc5 bxc5 33.Re3]

30...Qc8 31.Qxb6 Ng4?? 3.28/15
[Had he played 31...Bg4 32.Bxg4! Qxg4 33.Rh4 Qf3! 34.Qb5 Rc8⇄ the activity of his pieces would have kept all 3 results possible.]
[31...Bg4!= 0.23/15 32.Bxg4 Qxg4]



A very untypical mistake by Magnus. Loses the game. **32.Ba6!+-** Black is absolutely lost now. The remaining few moves were just agony. **32...Re1+** White is clearly winning. **33.Ka2 Qe8**
[33...Qd7 34.Rxf5 Qxf5 35.Qd8+ Kh7 36.Bd3+-]

34.Rxf5 Ne3 35.Bb5 Qe7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.35.
Loses game: ---
Black=1
Mistake: White=4
Black=4
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=2
OK: White=15
Black=10
Best: White=2
Black=1
Strong: White=1 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Dragnev,Valentin** **2556**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2728**
Elllobregat op 3rd (8) 07.12.2022
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.g3 g6N
[13...0-0 14.Bg2 *(14.h4 a4 15.Ncxb4 Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Qb6 17.a3 Bd8 18.Bd3 Qb7 19.0-0 Bb6 20.Nd5 Bd4 21.Rb1 Bh3 22.Re1 Qd7 23.Bf1 Bg4 24.Be2 Be6* Chapter-Games Chapter 28 Game 1 *)* 14...Bg5 *(14...g6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.0-0 h5 17.Qd3 h4 18.Rad1 h3 19.Bh1 Be6 20.Qxd6 Rac8 21.f4 Rfd8 22.fxe5 Qg5 23.Qc5 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nxe5 25.Qe3 Qxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Nxc4 27.Nd5 Nxb2 28.Rb1 Rc2 29.Bf3* Nurgaliyev,S (2016)-Nguyen,T (2534) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (1) 0-1 *)* 15.0-0 Ne7 16.Nce3 *(16.b3 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qd3 Qb6 19.Kh1 a4 20.f4 axb3 21.axb3 Rxa1 22.Nxa1 exf4 23.gxf4 Bf6*

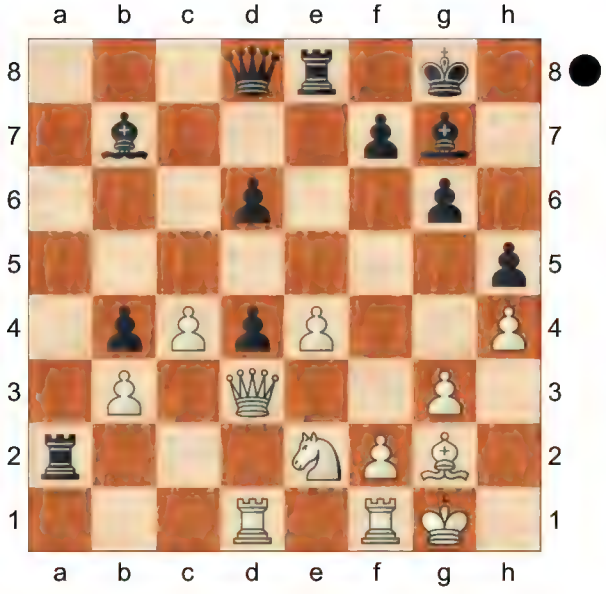
24.Nc2 Bc3 25.Bf3 h6 26.Rd1 Qf2 27.Rf1 Qh4 28.Bg2 Re8 29.Ne3 Bh3 30.Nd5 Bxg2+ Nowroozian,N (2695)-10.♘f3 b5 11.♗d3 (2629) DEN-ch Denmark 1987 (1) 1-0 *)* 16...Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Be6 18.Qd3 Qc7 *(18...Qd7 19.Rfd1 Rfd8 20.Rac1 Rac8 21.Nd5 Qa7 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.b3 Qa7 24.Rc2 Qc5 25.Rcd2 Kf8 26.Qf3 Kg8* Balogh,C (2544)-Riazantsev,A (2603) Venaco (rapid) 96/(76) 2005 *)* 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.b3 Nc6 22.Rd2 Sveshnikov Variation: Chelyab-Chelyabinsk Variation Main, L]

14.h4 h5 15.Bh3 The position is equal. **15...Bb7 16.Qd3 Bg7 17.Rd1 Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.0-0 0-0 20.Nf4** 0.01/18

[20.Rd2± 0.40/21 was preferrable.]

20...Re8= 21.Bg2 a4 22.b3 axb3 23.axb3 Ra2 24.Ne2 -0.79/10

[24.Rd2= 0.00/11 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Rxe4 27.Nd5]



24...d5!∓ 25.Nxd4

[25.cxd5? is the wrong capture. Ba6 26.Nf4 Bxd3-+]

25...dxc4 26.bxc4 Ra3 Wards off Qb3. Black has more active pieces. **27.Qd2 Bxe4** -0.17/13 A strong pair of Bishops.

[27...Qb6∓ -0.59/9 deserves consideration. 28.Nb5 Rxg3]

28.Nb5? -4.09/13 Now White is beyond hope.

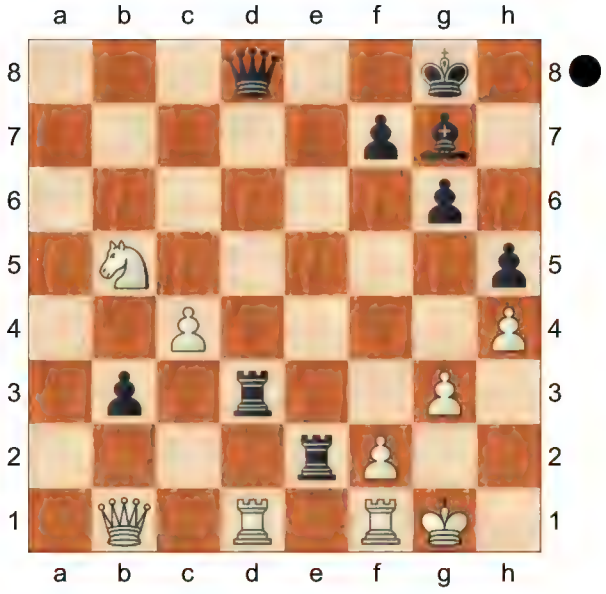
[28.Qxb4= -0.17/13 Rxg3 *(28...Bxg2 29.Kxg2 Qa8+ 30.Kh2=)* 29.fxg3 Bxd4+ 30.Rxd4 Qxd4+ 31.Rf2]

28...Rd3-+ 29.Qc1 Bxg2 30.Kxg2 Re2 31.Kg1 -6.09/11

[⌓31.Rxd3 -3.97/10 Qxd3 32.Kg1]

31...b3 Strongly threatening ...b2. Black is clearly winning. **32.Qb1** -9.12/13

[⌓32.c5 -4.51/10 b2 33.Qb1 Rxd1 34.Qxd1 Qxd1 35.Rxd1]



32...Rxg3+!! 33.fxg3 Qb6+ 34.Kh1 Qe6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.79/ Black=0.03 (flawless) .

Loses game: White=1 ---

Mistake: White=4

Black=1

OK: White=5

Black=8

Best: White=2

Black=2
Brilliant: ---
Black=1
0-1

		B33
□	**Anand,Viswanathan**	**2753**
■	**Xiong,Jeffery**	**2700**
	Online Olympiad	2021

[Daniel Fernandez,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 It is quite remarkable, but according to my database Black's next had never been played before. It seems like a very decent novelty from both the objective and practical points of view, even if it might not quite equalise in a correspondence encounter. **10...Bxf6!? 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 0-0!** A flexible move. **13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4?! a5!** Presumably still in preparation, Black finds the accurate way to hold back White's queenside and equalises the game. **15.Bc4?!** Initiating an odd episode of mutual blindness. **15...Rb8? 16.b3 Kh8 17.Nce3** A thematic move, but seemingly not enough to get the queen to move on properly. **17...g6** 0.87/22

[17...Bxe3± 0.42/22 18.Nxe3 Qf6]

18.Qe2 0.26/22

[18.h4 Bxh4 19.g3! Bg5

A) 20.f4;

B) 20.f4= 0.21/24 exf4 21.gxf4 Bh4+ 22.Kd2 Ne7 23.Kc1 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Be6 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Ra2 Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Qf6 28.Qd2 Bg3 29.Rf1 h5 *(29...d5 30.Bxd5 g5* Sveshnikov Nd5-Positional Line Open Sicilians 2019 *)* 30.Rxa5 Ra8 31.e5 Qf5 32.Rxa8 Rxa8 33.Kb2 h4 34.Qxd6 Re8 35.Bb5 Rf8 36.Bd3 Qe6 37.Qd4 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2757)-Logan,T (2749) NED-ch sf Leeuwarden 2001 (4) ½-½;

C) 20.Qe2 -0.44/21 20...f5? 1.27/23 *(20...Ne7∓* -0.44/21 *)* 21.f4 exf4 22.gxf4 Bh4+ 23.Kd1 Rb7]

[18.h4!± 0.87/22 Bxh4 19.g3]

18...f5=

[18...Be6 19.h4 0.00/22 *(19.0-0!±* 0.38/23 *)* 19...Bxh4= 20.g3 Bg5 0.42/20 *(20...Bf6!=* 0.00/22 *)* 21.f4!± exf4 22.gxf4 Bh4+ 0.94/20 *(22...Bf6!±* 0.53/20 *)* 23.Kd1]

[18...Bd7 19.Ra2 f5 20.h4]

This theme reminds me very strongly of my game Srinath-Fernandez, Serbia 2015 (in the archives.) The key difference is that right now Black's centre isn't being torn to shreds and in fact they have some kind of advantage. **19.h4!** White is slightly better. **19...Bxe3**

[19...Bxh4? 1.97/20 19...Bxe3 0.40 20.exf5 Bxf5 2.40/20 *(20...gxf5* 2.97/19 20...Bg5 1.82 *21.Qh5; 20...Bg5* 1.97/21 was worth a try. *)* 21.Nxf5+- Rxf5 22.g3 Bg5 *(22...Be7* 3.31/21 22...Bg5 2.36 *23.Bb5)* 23.Bd3

A) 23...Rf8? #11/16 23...Qg8 2.44 24.Rxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Kg7 26.Qxg6+ Kh8 27.Qh7#;

B) 23...Rf7 24.Bxg6 Rg7 6.69/21 *(⌓24...Qg8* 4.23/19 *)* 25.Be4? 2.65/20 *(25.Bxh7* 6.69/21 White wants to mate with Bf5+. *Rxh7 26.Rxh7+ Kxh7 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.Rg4)* 25...Rxb3? 6.39/18 *(25...Qd7* 2.65/20 *26.Rc4 Rxb3)* 26.Bxh7+- Rxh7 27.Rxh7+ Kxh7 28.Qc2+;

C) 23...Qg8 24.Bxf5 Qxd5? 5.03/21 *(24...gxf5* 2.14/17 *25.Qc4 Qe8)* 25.Rxh7+;

D) 23...Rxb3 24.Bxf5 gxf5 25.Qc2! Against Rb1+ Qb8 *(25...Rb5 26.Qxf5!)* 26.0-0!]

20.Qxe3 0.04/20

[20.Nxe3± 0.43/23 f4 21.Nd5]

20...fxe4N 0.40/25

[20...f4 21.Qe2 *(21.Qd2 Bd7 22.Ra1 Be6 23.Kd1 Ne7 24.Kc2 Nxd5 25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.Qxd5 Qb6 27.Rhf1 Rfc8 28.Ra4 Rc5 29.Qe6 Rc7 30.Qd5 Rbc8 31.Qxa5 Qxa5 32.Rxa5 Rxc3+ 33.Kb2 Kg7 34.Rd1 Rc2+ 35.Ka3 Rxf2* 5.Be2 0-0-0 6. Be3 (2672)-Vit spelar 7.Sgf3 (2741) 4/493 Sochi 1967 (7) 0-1 *36.Rxd6 Rc7 37.Rxe5 Rxg2 38.Ree6* 5.♗e2 0-0-0 6.♗e3 (2672)-Vit spelar 7.Sgf3 (2741) 4/493 Sochi 1967 (7) 0-1 *)* 21...Bd7 And now ...Nd4! would win. 22.Ra2]

[20...f4= 0.04/20 deserves consideration. 21.Qe2 Rf7]

21.h5

[21.Qxe4 Ne7 22.h5 Nxd5 23.Bxd5 Rf4 24.Qd3 Rxa4 25.bxa4 Qg5 26.0-0! *(26.hxg6?* -5.00/19 26.0-0 0.48 *Qc1+)* 26...gxh5 27.Be4 Qe7! 28.Rd1 Rb6? 1.73/23 *(28...Bd7*= 0.18/18 and Black is okay. *)* 29.Qd5+- Bg4 30.f3? 0.11/18 *(30.Qa8++-* 2.01/21 *Kg7 31.Qxa5 Bxd1 32.Qxb6 Bxa4 33.Qb7 Qxb7 34.Bxb7)* 30...Be6= 31.Qxa5 Rb2!]

21...g5 0.89/24

[21...gxh5! 22.Rxh5 Bf5? 2.25/20 *(22...Bg4±* 0.40/20 *23.Rh6 Bf5)* 23.Qh6!]

[21...gxh5± 0.45/22 22.Rxh5 *(22.Qxe4 Qe8±)* 22...Bg4]

22.Qxe4 0.53/22

[22.0-0± 0.89/24]

22...Bb7 1.08/20

[22...Ne7 23.Nxe7 Qxe7 24.Rxa5 0.23/21 *(24.0-0;* White should play *24.0-0!±* 0.94/19 *)*

A) 24...Bb7? 1.74/22 24...Rf4 0.19 25.Qe3!

A1) 25...Bxg2 26.Rg1! Bc6 2.57/24 *(26...Bb7 27.Qxg5; 26...Ba8* 1.76/24 was called for. *)* 27.Qxg5 1.53/20 *(27.Ra7!+-* 2.57/24 *Qd8 28.Qxg5 Qxg5 29.Rxg5)*;

A2) 25...Qc7 26.Ra7 Qc6 Wards off Bd5 27.f3! g4 28.Be2;

B) 24...Rf4= 25.Qe2 *(25.Qe3?* -2.73/19 25.Qe2 0.12 *Rxc4! 26.bxc4 Rb1+)* 25...Qc7 26.Ra2 *(26.Ra1?* -2.90/20 26.Qa2 0.08 *Rxb3; 26.Ra3?* -1.96/20 26.Ra2 0. 10 *Bb7)* 26...Rxc4 *(26...Bb7* 1.18/18 26...Rxc4 0.09 *)* 27.Qxc4 Qxc4 28.bxc4 Rb1+ 29.Ke2 Rxh1 30.Ra8 Rxh5 31.Rxc8+ Kg7]

[22...Bf5± 0.53/22 23.Qe2 Qd7]

23.Qe3!± White has more active pieces.

23...e4 24.0-0!

[24.Qxe4? Re8-+]

24...Ne5 25.Rfa1

[25.Qxe4 0.15/26 25.Qd4 1.29

A) 25...Rf4 1.65/22 25...g4 0.23 26.Qe3 Rh4 27.f4! Nxc4? 3.85/26 *(27...Bxd5* 1.68/22 *28.Bxd5 gxf4 29.Raxf4 Rxh5)* 28.Rxc4 Bxd5 29.Qd4+;

B) 25...Bc6

B1) 26.Ra2 a4 *(26...Rf4=* 1.33/20 26...g4 0.28 So far 17...Ne7 had been mostly tested in corr games, but the Online Olympiad also saw a nice test of the line, between two players I know personally. It reached this position and White then found some ways to imbalance that ultimately resulted in a nice conversion from a drawn position. The game is worth checking. Kuybokarov,T-Song,R INT 2021 *27.Qe3* see Jakovenko,D-Inarkiev,E Izhevsk 2019 *Rh4 28.f4! gxf4 29.Nxf4)* 27.Qd4 axb3 28.Rb2 Qe8;

B2) 26.Raa1

B2a) 26...Rf4 1.10/23 26...g4 0.32 27.Qe3 Rh4 28.f4! gxf4 29.Nxf4 a4 30.Rad1 0.04/24 *(30.Ng6+!±* 1.36/19 *Nxg6 31.hxg6)*;

B2b) 26...a4 27.Qd4 axb3 There are other options along the way. These are discussed in Shirov,A-Najer,E INT 2021, as well as the correct response for Black: 28.Rfb1! Qe8]

[25.Qxe4 Bc6]

25...Qe8?! Black makes the understandable assumption that the b3-pawn and c4-square will ensure an unlosable endgame, but Anand finds the flaw.

[25...Nxc4+- 2.63/21 25...Qe8 1.15 Motylev, A-Donchenko,A Moscow 2017 26.bxc4 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Rb2

A) 28.Rf1 Qb6 as we have covered a number of times already. 29.Rxe4 Qxe3 30.fxe3 Rxf1+ 1.21/18 *(30...Kg8+-* 2.55/21 *31.Ra4 Re2)* 31.Kxf1;

B) 28.Rf1+- 2.91/21;

C) 28.Rxa5 1.25/21 28...Qf6 2.35/24 *(28...Rbxf2 29.R5a4!; 28...Rbxf2±* 1.25/21 *29.Ra8 Qxa8 30.Qd4+ Kg8 31.Rxa8 Rf1+ 32.Kh2 Rxa8)* 29.Rf1+- Qf5± The main line continues to be 30.Ra4]

26.Rxa5

[26.Qxg5? Nf3+ *(26...Qf7 27.Qd2∓)* 27.gxf3 Rg8-+]

26...Qxh5 27.Qxe4 0.00/22

[27.Rb5± 1.09/19]

27...Rbe8=

[27...Qh4 0.38/23 27...Rbe8 0.00 28.Qxh4 gxh4 29.Rb5]

28.Be2 Against Ng4. The board is on fire.

[28.Qd4! -1.13/18 28.Be2 0.00 Re6!]

28...Qh4 0.53/23

[28...g4 29.Qd4+- Qg5!? was Zhigalko, S-Berkes,F Denizli 2013 (see Rendle's notes.) *(29...Re6?* 2.12/20 29...Qg5 0.00 *30.Nf4)*

A) 30.Ra7! -3.27/20 30.Rf1 -0.04 Bxd5 31.Qxd5! g3;

B) 30.b4 g3 31.fxg3± Karjakin, S-Laznicka, V Poikovsky 2011

(31.f4? -7.16/20 31.fxg3 -0.09 *Qh4)* 31...Qxg3 forces 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Bxd5 34.Rxd5 *(34.Qxd5??* -4.77/22 34.Rxd5 -0.08 *Qf4+ 35.Kg1 Ng4!)* 34...Kg8 *(34...Rf8+* with a position that would be very difficult to play for humans. *35.Bf3 Kg8! 36.Qf2 Qf4)*;

C) 30.Qe3= 0.00/25 Nf3+ 31.Bxf3 Rxe3 32.Nxe3;

D) 30.g3!? -0.36/19 Jones 30...Re6! was refuted a decade ago:]

[28...Qh6± 0.48/21 28...g4 0.00 29.Qd4]

[28...g4= 0.00/22]

29.Qxh4± gxh4 30.Ne3± 0.24/21 This way Black doesn't even get ...Nd3 and the position could easily be mathematically lost in spite of the equal material. White's bishop gradually gains ground until the right moment arises for it to be favourably exchanged for a knight.

[30.Ba6!

A) 30...Bxd5 1.66/20 30...Bc6 0.41 31.Rxd5 h3± 32.Rxd6 still makes sense, but allows a number of interesting continuations. Ng4! 1.47/20 *(32...Rf7+-* 1.89/19 *33.gxh3 Rg7+ 34.Kh1 Rf7)* 33.Bb7!± Going right back where he came from and abandoning the polite fiction that White is even slightly interested in the queenside pawns. The files are much more important! Rd4 would now be deadly. h2+ 3.07/21 *(⌓33...Nxf2* 1.61/19 *34.b4 hxg2)* 34.Kh1+- Rxf2 35.Rd4! h5 36.Bf3□ Against Rfe2;

B) 30...Bxa6 31.Rxa6

B1) 31...h3

B1a) 32.gxh3! Nf3+ 33.Kh1! *(33.Kg2 Ne1+±* The idea of this move is that ... Bb4 seems like a necessary component of any kind of untangling plan for Black. The game Ilonen,I-Gulbis,H email 2017 resulted in a win for White, which as far as correspondence goes is quite a damning indication of Black's chances. *34.Kf1* as in Nemeth, M-Medvegy,Z Zalakaros 2013 should probably be met by *Nd3* as in the 16... Kc7 comment above. *35.R6a2! Rf5!* keeps the back-rank pin and even the trade of queens doesn't help Black escape, e. g. *36.c4* Black must now prevent Rd1. *Ref8)* 33...Ng5 34.Kg2 Re2 35.Ra8! Rexf2+ 36.Kg3! Hoping for Rxf8+. Ne4+! With better engines these days we can see that the position is bordering on winning for White. 37.Kh4 Rxa8 38.Rxa8+!? Preparing to contest the diagonal in case of any kind of Ba3 from White. Kg7;

B1b) 32.gxh3+- 1.65/26 Nf3+ 33.Kh1;

B1c) 32.f4± 1.21/22 Technically White must be better here, but who really knows! 32...Nd3± 33.g3± Threatens to win with R6a2! The immediate 33...Nc5? 3.24/20 *(33...Re2±* 1.12/23) 34.R6a3+- is less good. After 34...Re2 (-> ...Ne4) 35.R3a2

Black only really keeps the option of ...Kc8, because Rxa2?! 36.Rxa2!+- is close to curtains. It is just as well to try something new because 36...Nxb3 has mostly been debunked, for a couple of reasons. 37.Kh2;

B2) 31...h3 1.61/19 keeps fighting. 32.gxh3 Nf3+ 33.Kh1 Nd2;

B3) 31...Nd3? 3.25/24 32.R6a2 1.68/20 *(⌓32.Rxd6* 3.25/24 aiming for Nf6. *Rxf2 33.Nf6)* 32...h3+- *(32...Re5 33.c4)*

B3a) 33.Rd2± 0.09/22 33.gxh3 1.82 Or 33...Nxf2!;

B3b) 33.g3!∞ when White digs the knight out of the corner but potentially at too high a cost. Ne5 2.08/21 is also logical, though the following line defies human understanding: *(33...Rf3±* 1.29/22 is a better defense. *34.b4 Ref8)* 34.Kh2! 0.72/18 Half constructive waiting move, and half preparing to play Qc1 and engineer some queen traps if Black takes on a2. *(34.b4+-* 2.08/21 has better winning chances. *)* 34...Ng4+± 35.Kxh3! Nxf2+ 36.Kg2 Black can't prevent a second White knight from taking a rook and embedding itself in the corner. Ng4!?;

B3c) 33.gxh3 Rf5 34.Ra8 1.37/21 *(34.Ne3+-* 1.96/22 *Rg8+ 35.Kf1)*;

C) 30...Bc6! 31.Bb5 Bxb5 32.Rxb5 Rb7 is the strong threat. Nd3! 33.f3 0.00/26 *(33.Rba5* White wants to play R5a2. *Nxf2; 33.Rb7±* 0.36/23 was preferrable. *Nxf2 34.Re7 Rxe7 35.Nxe7)* 33...h3]

[30.Kf1± 0.61/23 is superior.]

30...h3!= Deflection **31.gxh3 Nf3+! 32.Bxf3 Rxf3 33.Rh5**

[33.Ra7! Bc6 34.Rc7!± 0.10/20 Finally the point of provoking ...g6 is seen: the f5-bishop lacks a retreat square! Amazingly, Black loses a piece in spite of having two tempi to react to this g4 idea. The position remains hideously complicated but the piece outweighs the pawns after that. (Better is *34.c4!±* 0.93/22) 34...Be4! leads to an unusual material balance, but in principle White's central pawns have a very high chance of sweeping Black away in the following line.]

33...Rg8+

[33...Ref8? 1.94/21 33...Be4 0.24 34.Ra2]

34.Kf1 Rgf8 35.Nd1

[35.Ra2± -3.71/18 35.Ke2 0.38 Pointedly not taking the a2-pawn. A long manoeuvring struggle probably lies ahead, in which it seems not too important that we are starting from +0. 6. Rxe3?!]

[35.Ra7 Be4]

[35.Ke2 Of course Black doesn't want to give time for reorganisations such as Qc3, and must keep gaining tempo. Rxf2+□ 36.Kd3 Bf3□ 37.Rh4 Strongly threatening Ra7. d5]

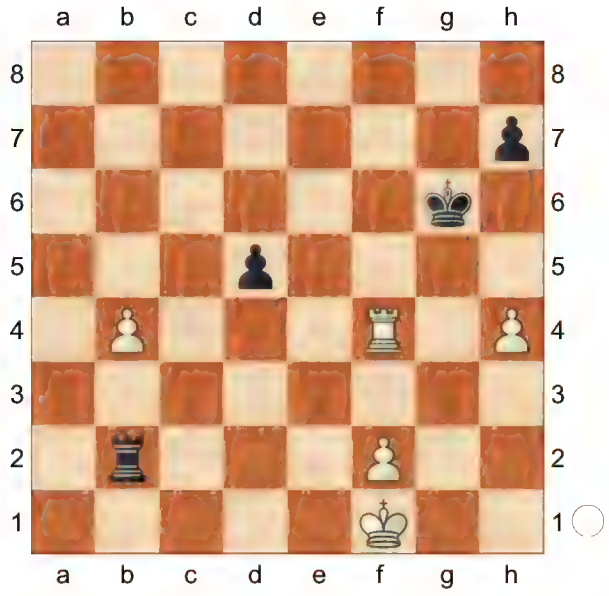
[Wrong is 35.Ra2? Rxe3 36.c4 Rd3-+ *(36...Rxb3? 37.Rb5-+)*]

35...Rd3 36.Rh4

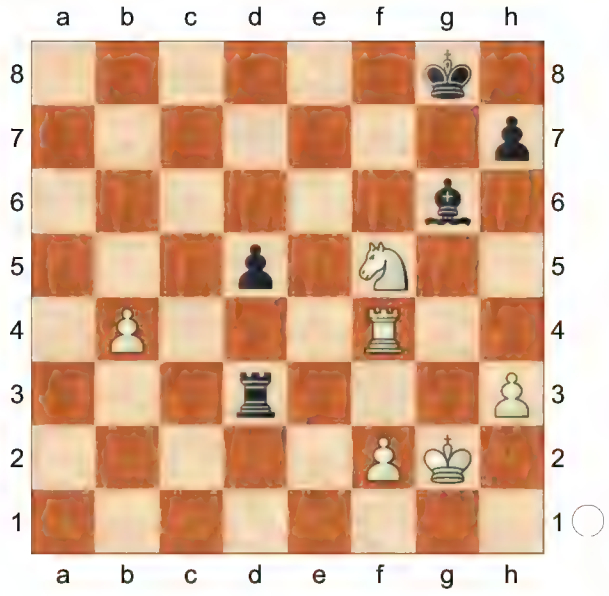
[36.Ke2 -0.35/19 36.Rh4 0.22 Rxd1!]

36...Bf3 37.Rd4 Rxd4 38.cxd4
Endgame. KRB-KRN **38...Rf4**
[38...Bxd1?? 4.70/17 38...Rb8 0.38 39.Rxd1!-+ destroying the tactical protection of the a8-knight by forcing an intermediate queen trade. Best is possibly 39...Rf3 40.Rb1! Rxh3 41.Ke2 Rh5∞ when at least Black's king position doesn't look airtight any more. With the back rank not yet clear Black doesn't want to accept the exchange: 42.b4 Rb5 43.d5 h5± and various piece sacrifices loom heavy above Black's centre (Nxc4, Ne4 or Bxc4, punctuated by Bxh6 as necessary.) 44.Kd3 is still logical, but after Rxd5+ 45.Kc4?]
[38...Rb8!∓ we see that White's play is altogether too slow. Black will collect on a8 and win at least one queenside pawn before beginning to push there. 39.Ne3! is the correct answer. Rxb3 40.Kg1 Rb4 *(40...Rd3 41.Ra4)* 41.Rc1!!± I think that without near-exhaustive preparation this would be impossible to find. *(41.Nf5 Be4!?* By attacking the f7-pawn, White aims to force a concession whose exact purpose remains completely shrouded in mystery for a few more moves. *42.Nxd6!* Not making any structural concessions with the g- or f-pawn. *Rxd4)* For instance 41...d5 *(41...Rxd4?* 6.73/23 41...h5 0.33 *42.Rc8+* is again nothing to write home about. *Kg7 43.Nf5+; 41...Kg8!?* is also possible, and maybe mathematically better but less ambitious. More time and piece activity is conserved if Black takes back on a8 with the rook. *42.Rc4!)* 42.Kh2]
39.Ne3 Rxd4 40.Ra4 Rd3
[40...Rxa4?? 3.74/21 40...Rd2 0.44 , and the back rank is now so empty that it can be cleared in one move. I suspect what both sides missed was the detail 41.bxa4!]
41.Rf4 Bh5 42.b4 d5 1.70/23
[42...Kg8± 0.82/22]
43.Kg2 0.72/23
[43.Rf5!+- 1.70/23 d4 44.Rd5]
43...Bg6±
[The commendably patient 43...Kg7∓ 2.72/21 43...Bg6 0.66 was preferable. 44.Rd4! Rxd4? 6.63/19 *(44...Rb3* 2.58/24 *45.Rxd5 Bg6)* 45.Nf5++- Kf6± Black avoids major damage since they have time to prepare the queenside before actually taking on a8, e.g. ...a6, ...Kc8 and then ... Rxa8. Now that one set of pieces has been traded Black is completely fine to enter the line 46.Nxd4! Ke5 47.b5!]
44.Nf5 Kg8? 4.65/23
[The lesser evil is 44...Bxf5! but after the b3-pawn falls, Black's queenside pawns will end up hitting a brick wall one way or another while White's majority presses on (something like in a Berlin.) The engine line runs: 45.Rxf5
A) 45...Rd4? 3.31/23 45...d4 0.20 46.b5 Rd1 *(46...Kg7?* 6.29/21 46...h6 3.48 *47.Rg5+±* Despite White's temporarily passive pieces it is not hard to see how threatening things can become when (say) the king lands on g5. Ironically, *47...Kf6* offers an endgame in a way that doesn't lose a pawn: *48.Rg4! Rd2 49.Rb4?!* Repels Rb2 *)* 47.Kf3;
B) 45...d4! 46.Rf3;

C) 45...d4!= 0.23/27 and Black stays safe.;
D) 45...Rb3? 2.21/21 46.Rf4!+- Kg7 47.h4! Kg6 3.39/28
(⌓47...Kh6 2.23/22 48.Kf1 Rb2)
48.Kf1!+- Rb2



49.Ke1!]
[44...Rb3? 2.29/20 44...Bxf5 0.51 45.Ne7! Be4+⟶ 46.f3∞]
[44...Bxf5!= 0.23/21 45.Rxf5 d4]



Loses the game. **45.Ne7+!+- Kg7 46.Nxg6 Kxg6** KR-KR. White is clearly winning. **47.Rf3** Repels d4 **47...Rd1 48.Rb3** Dodges Rb1 **48...d4 49.Kf3 d3** 6.78/21
[⌓49...Re1 4.45/20 50.Rd3 Kf5]
50.Ke3 Rh1 51.b5
[Not 51.Rxd3 Rxh3+ 52.Kd4 Rh1±]
51...Rxh3+ 52.f3 Rh1 53.b6
b7! would kill now.
[Weaker is 53.Rxd3 Rb1±]
53...Re1+ 54.Kxd3 White threatens b7 and mate. **54...Re8 55.b7 Rb8 56.Ke4 h5 57.Kf4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.35.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=6 Black=6
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=1
OK: White=11 Black=11
Best: White=6 Black=2
Strong: White=3 Black=2
1-0

B33
□ **Kokarev,Dmitry** **2553**
■ **Moiseenko,Alexander** **2560**
Tashkent Sahibkiran Temur Cup (6)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.g3 0-0 14.Bg2 g6 15.Nxf6+
[15.0-0 Bg7 16.Qd3 Be6 17.a3

bxa3 18.Qxa3 Qb8 19.Rfd1 Ra7 20.b3 Rb7 21.Rab1 Nd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Bf1 h5 24.Bd3 h4 25.Qxa5 Rxb3 26.Qd2 Bxd5 27.exd5 Bf6 28.Qc2 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Qa7 Sevian,S (2642)-Caruana,F (2828) USA-ch 63rd Saint Louis 2019 (1) ½-½]

15...Qxf6 16.0-0 a4N

[16...h5 17.h4 *(17.Qd3 h4 18.Rad1 h3 19.Bh1 Be6 20.Qxd6 Rac8 21.f4 Rfd8 22.fxe5 Qg5 23.Qc5 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nxe5 25.Qe3 Qxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Nxc4 27.Nd5 Nxb2 28.Rb1 Rc2 29.Bf3 Nc4 30.Ra1 Ne5* Nurgaliyev,S (2016)-Nguyen,T (2534) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (1) 0-1 *)* 17...Bg4 18.Qd2 Rfb8 19.b3 a4 20.f3 Bd7 21.Rfd1 Be8 22.Kh2 Kg7 23.Qe1 Qe7 24.Rd3 Ra6 25.Rad1 axb3 26.axb3 Ra2 27.R1d2 Rba8 28.Qe3 Qa7 29.Qe2 Rxc2 30.Rxc2 Nd4 31.Rxd4 Kamalidenova,M (2350)-Divya,D (2389) Asian Continental (Women) op 20th 2023 (8) 0-1]

17.Qd2 Be6 18.b3

[18.Qxd6 Rfc8±]

18...axb3 19.axb3 Threatens to win with Rxa8. **19...Qe7 20.f4**

[20.Nxb4 Nd4 21.Rab1 Rfb8∓]

20...Rxa1 21.Rxa1 f6 22.f5

[22.Nxb4 Nd4 23.Qa2 Rb8∓]

22...Bf7 23.h4

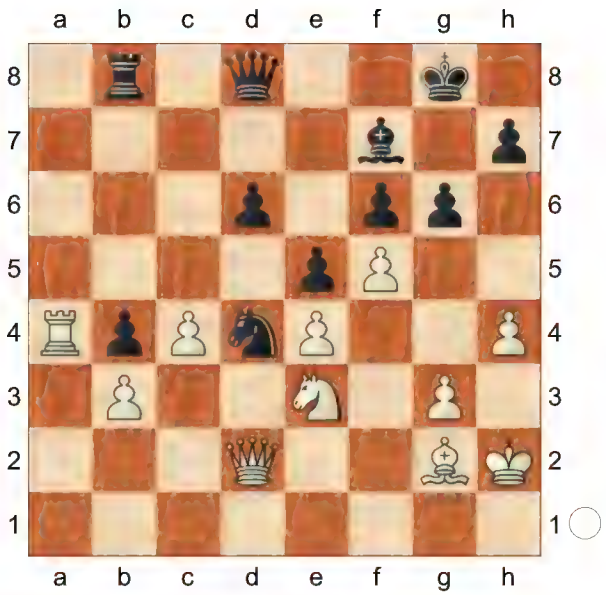
[23.Nxb4 Nd4 24.Qh6 Nxb3 25.fxg6 hxg6= *(25...Nxa1 26.Qxh7#* Pin *)*]

23...Rb8 24.Kh2 Qd8 25.Ra6 Qc8 26.Ra4 Qd8 27.Ne3 White is more active. **27...Nd4**

(Diagram)

28.Qa2 0.37/22

[28.Ng4!± 1.32/12 Ra7 is the strong



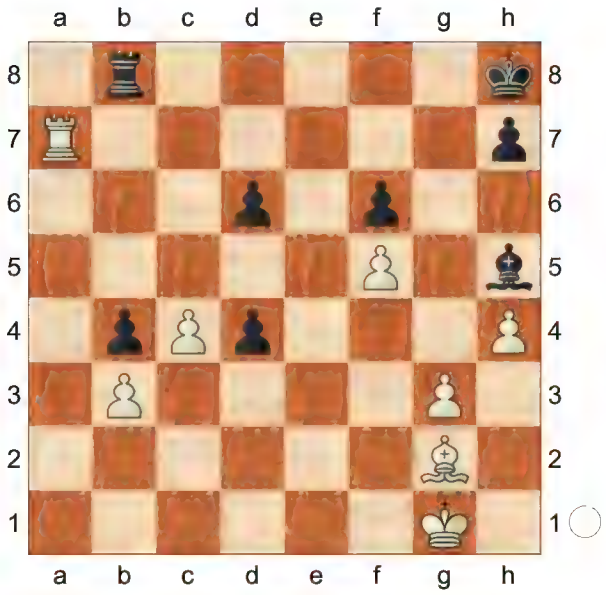
threat. Qe7 *(28...Nxb3?* is the wrong capture. *29.Qh6+-; 28...gxf5? 29.Nh6+ Kg7 30.Nxf7+-)* 29.Qh6 *(29.Rxb4 Rxb4 30.Qxb4 gxf5±)*]

28...Kg7± 29.Nc2 Nxc2 30.Qxc2 Qb6 31.Qd2 Qd4 32.Qxd4 exd4

Endgame. KRB-KRB **33.Kg1** 0.03/21

[33.Ra7± 0.59/22]

33...gxf5= The position is equal. **34.exf5 Bh5** Against Bf3 **35.Ra7+ Kh8**



White must now prevent ...d3. **36.Rd7 Bd1 37.Rxd6 Bxb3** Hoping for ...Bc2. **38.c5**

[38.Rxd4? loses. Bc2 39.Bf3 b3-+ *(39...Bxf5 40.Rd2±)*]

38...Rc8 39.c6

[39.Rxd4 simplifies Rxc5 40.Rxb4 Bc2 41.Rb8+]

39...Ba4 40.Rxd4 Rc4 would now be deadly. **40...Bxc6 41.Rxb4 Bxg2 42.Kxg2** KR-KR **42...Rc5 43.g4 h5 44.Kg3 hxg4 45.Kxg4** aiming for Kh5. **45...Kg7 46.Rb6 Ra5 47.Rc6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless) .

Mistake:	White=2	---
Inaccurate:	White=1	---
OK:	White=11	
Black=19		
Best:	---	
Black=2		

½-½

B33

□ **Azarov,Sergei Nikolaevich 2582**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke 2603**
Sharjah Masters 6th (8) 24.05.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.a3 0-0

[13...a5 14.Bd3 Ne7 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe2 0-0 17.0-0 Bd7 18.b4 axb4 19.Nxb4 Rfc8 20.c4 bxc4 21.Bxc4 Be6 22.Bd5 Qd7 23.Qa6 Rc3 24.Rfd1 Bg4 25.Rdb1 Rbc8 26.a4 h5 27.a5 Bh4 28.Qb7 10.Kb1 b5 11. c5 (2851)-Hantel,T (2758) 36/(704) Kecskemet 1983 (9) ½-½]

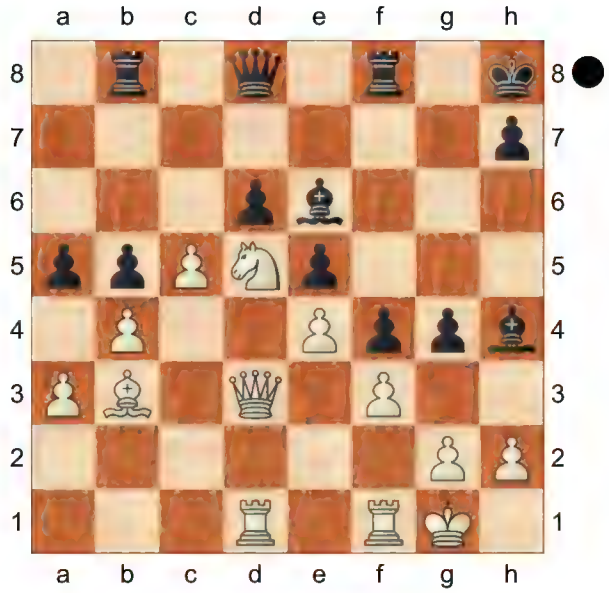
14.Nce3 Ne7N

[14...Bxe3 15.Nxe3 Ne7 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Bc2 Qb6 18.0-0 Rbd8 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 f5 21.Qd2 Kh8 22.b4 Rc8 23.Rfe1 Qc7 24.Re3 Qc4 25.Rd1 Ng6 26.a4 e4 27.f3 Ne5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Qe1 Burnoiu,N (2410)-Rogozenco,D (2530) Ciocaltea Memorial 2004 (8.3) 0-1]

15.Bd3 Be6 The position is equal.

16.Bc2 Kh8 17.0-0 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 g6 19.Qd3 f5 20.Rad1 a5 21.b4 f4 22.f3 Bh4 23.Bb3 g5 24.c4 g4 ...a4 is the strong threat. **25.c5?** -1.78/10

[25.cxb5= 0.00/17 and White has nothing to worry. gxf3 26.Rxf3]



25...Bg3!-+ And now ...Qh4! would win.

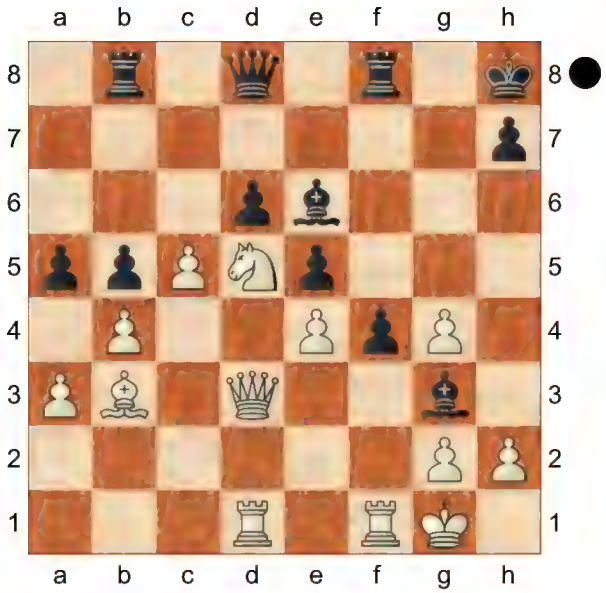
26.fxg4 -2.23/15

[26.hxg3 fxg3 27.fxg4 Qh4]

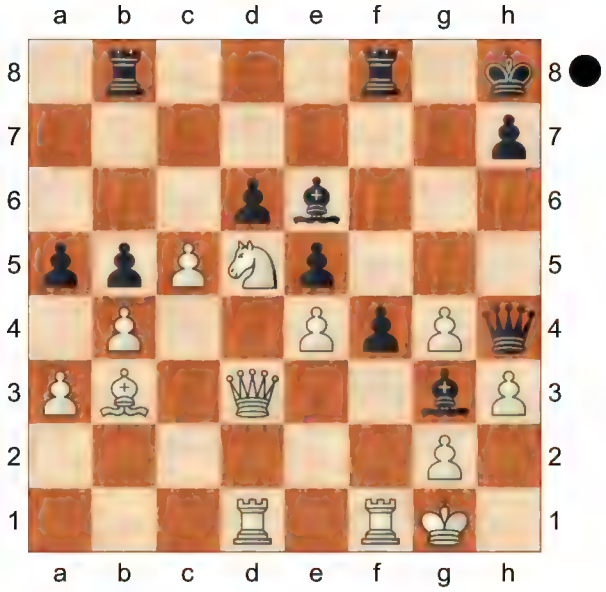
[⌓26.Ne7 -1.74/22 Bxb3 *(26...Qxe7 27.Bxe6 Qxe6 28.hxg3=)* 27.Qxd6 Qxd6 *(27...Bxd1 28.Qxe5+)* 28.Rxd6]

[26.Nxf4 Bc4]

(Diagram)



26...Qh4! 27.h3 -3.84/18
[27.hxg3 -1.71/22 fxg3 28.Rf5 Qh2+ 29.Kf1 Qh1+ 30.Ke2 Qxg2+ 31.Ke3 Bxf5 32.exf5 Qf2+ 33.Ke4]



27...Bxg4! aiming for ...f3. **28.Rf3 Rg8 29.Qf1** -5.22/17
[29.cxd6 -3.40/20 was worth a try. Bxh3 *(29...Bxf3? 30.Qxf3 Be1 31.g4-+)* 30.Nxf4 *(30.gxh3 Qxh3 31.Rd2 Be1+)*]
29...Bxf3 30.Qxf3 dxc5 31.bxc5 Rg6
Strongly threatening ...Be1. **32.Kf1 Bh2**
White must now prevent ...Rg3. **33.Rd3 Rc8 34.Rc3 Rg3 35.Qf2 Qh5**
Wards off Bd1 **36.Nxf4?** -6.29/20
[36.Bc2 -3.93/10]

36...Qh6! Black is clearly winning.
[Stronger than 36...exf4 37.Rxg3 Qe5 38.Rd3=]
37.Ne2 Rxc3 38.Nxc3 Rf8 Pin.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/ Black=0.20 (precise) .
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=4 ---
Inaccurate: White=4
Black=1
OK: White=6
Black=11
Strong: ---
Black=2 . An unexpected result.
½-½

B33

□ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2677**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2671**
83rd Tata Steel Masters, Wijk aan Zee (12.5)
[Richard Palliser,MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4
Another Jobava-Prie and in a game which Esipenko really needed to win, coming off the back of his defeat at the hands of Aryan Tari and trailing van Foreest by half a point (and Giri by a further half more) . **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5!? 6.Ndb5**
The alternatives were tested in two recent online blitz games: **6...d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8** And so White has acquired the bishop-pair, but he would likely prefer not to have a pawn on f3 here and Black should be fine, enjoying a solid position and the typical queenside counterplay such Exchange Caro structures tend to offer.
[8...Ne7]
9.a4 Be7 10.Be2!? 0-0 11.0-0
The point of the young Russian's play becomes clear. White will establish his traditional grip on the e5-square after all. Can Black use his small lead in development to create some counterplay? **11...Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3 a5!** Yes, is the answer, as again we see this thematic knight manoeuvre. Dare I say with ...a6 and ...b5 on the way, as well as the hole on e4, that van Foreest was already allowing himself too dream of reaching '+4' or at least of playing for a win as Black? **14.c3**
[14.Bb5 Nb6 15.Be3 Bg5 16.Bxg5!? is a typical Stockfish idea, but it's likely correct that Black has full compensation for the pawn after Qxg5]
[14.f4]
14...f5
[14...Bg5! 15.Bxg5 Qxg5 16.Nc4 is likely in White's favour with ideas of Ng5 very much in the position. Qe7? 17.Re1 *(17.f4 exf4 18.Rxf4 b6)* 17...f5 18.f4 just leaves White winning a piece and most likely on the dark squares too Clearly 18...Qf6?]
[14...b6 would not be wise, and 15.Bb5!? feels a little hard to believe, although it may well be playable, but there was certainly 15...Bb7! , as now the potentially pressure against b3 keeps White's queenside ambitions in check after 16.Be3?! f5 . White should probably prefer to head for the messy and roughly balanced alternative that is 17.f3]
15.f4!? Keeping the two bishops, but while White will be able to untangle with b3 and Bb2/Bd2, it's pretty clear that he cannot hope to be better once Black activates his second knight. **15...Nc5**
[15...Bf6 16.Nb5 Nc5 17.Be3 b6 18.fxe5 when the b-pawn is a big one and Black should have enough compensation Returning the favour, but it's not immediately obvious why the engines are clamouring for 18...Bxe5! . Doesn't the bishop just bite on granite here? The answer is revealed after 19.Nd4 Qe8! 20.Bf2 Qg6! when Black just seems to be in trouble. Clearly c4-c5 is threatened and even]
16.Be3 exf4 1.08/22
[16...b6 17.fxe5! dxe5 18.Nc4 when Black is rather weak on the dark squares, but it is four pawns for the piece and I'm happy to trust the engines that Black is most likely OK. or 18...Bd6 19.b4]

[16...Ne4± 0.63/26]

17.Bxc5!± dxc5 18.Rxf4! 0.22/22

[18.Bb5!

A) 18...g5? 3.07/20 18...Ra7 1.03 19.Nc4 Bd6 20.Qh5! followed by ... Rfb8 or;

B) 18...Bd7 2.42/23 18...Bd6 0.93 19.Bxd7? 0.29/19 *(19.d6+- 2.42/23 Bf6 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Rad1)* 19...Qxd7= 20.Nc4 Ra6! 0.76/21 Inhibits Nb6. *(20...Rad8=* 0.06/24 remains equal. *)* 21.Rxf4;

C) 18...Bd6 19.Nc4 . Now 19...b6!? 20.Qd3 0.72/23 *(⌓20.Qd2!* 1.10/23 *)* 20...Ra7!± isn't quite so good as Black has 21.Rae1!]

[18.Bb5!± 1.10/22]

18...Bd6?!= 19.Rf3?! Qh4 0.65/22

[19...g5! when absolutely anything might happen, and in practice you'd surely take White or 20.Qe1 *(*or even *20.Nc4?!* -0.57/19 20.Qe1 0.34 . Here too I can't fully believe the immediate break, although after *g4 21.Rd3 Bxh2+! 22.Kxh2* Kg1 would now be deadly. *Qh4+ 23.Kg1* White does likely have a superior version of the game and should be able to defend on the kingside with. aiming for g3. *g3)* 20...g4 21.Rf1 Very ambitious, even if White needed to win and had already taken some positional liberties. Moreover, if he wanted to go g3-g4, it was better to begin with 21...f4 and only after 22.Nc4 consider Ra6]

[19...b6= 0.21/23]

20.Rh3 0.29/23

[20.h3!± 0.65/22 might be stronger.]

20...Qe7 Ruling out c3-c4. Black is certainly now OK and Esipenko is quick to switch focus. **21.Nc4 f4** 0.87/20

[21...Bd7

A) 22.Qd2 . Rae8? 23.Bd3 heads for f3 *(23.Re3!? Qf6□ 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Bd3±)* 23...Qf6! is what you'd really like to do as Black, but White very much has his own play too after 24.Nxa5 f4! 25.Bxh7+ Kf7 26.Rf3 g6 Hoping for ...Kg7. 27.Raf1 Kg7!;

B) 22.Bd3 g6 23.Re3 . This is likely slightly or perhaps even clearly better for Black after Qf6! 24.Qf3 Rae8 , although even here matters are still pretty messy following]

[21...Bd7± 0.38/22]

22.Bg4?!± Bf5 1.48/22

[22...Bxg4 23.Qxg4! would have left Black calling the shots. Still striving for complications rather than simplification and rough equality after 23...Rf6 24.Rf1 . Keeping things simple and under control. The engines prefer the maximalist 24...Re8! 25.b3]

[⌓22...Rf6 0.90/26]

23.Bxf5± Rxf5?! 24.Rd3 1.02/23

[⌓24.Qe1 1.51/23]

24...f3? 2.92/22 It feels like this should be strong, but Esipenko is now able to hold his position together.

[24...Re8 25.Qf3! Qd7 26.b3 . Pretty essential or at least 26...Rf6?! 27.Rf1 b6 28.Rdd1]

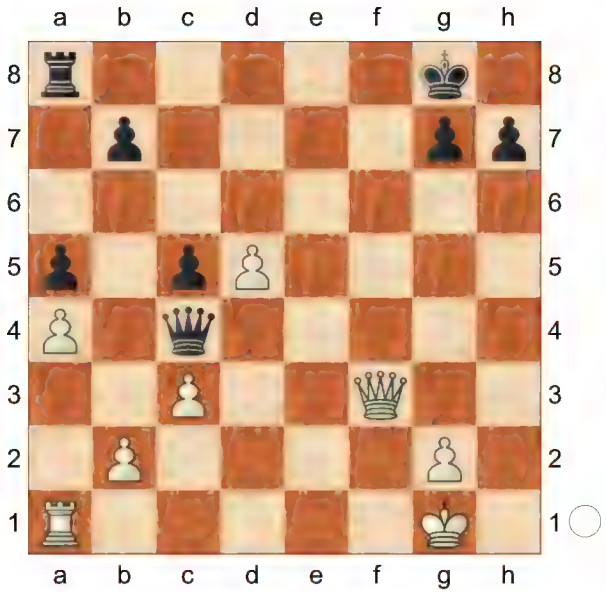
[24...Re8± 1.02/23]

25.Rxf3+- Bxh2+ 26.Kxh2 Qh4+ 27.Kg1!? Rxf3! By no means forced, but certainly a dangerous pawn sacrifice from a practical perspective.

28.Qxf3! Qxc4

(Diagram)

29.Rf1! h6 30.Qf7+ Kh8 3.80/26



Threatening ...Rd2, as well as just ...Rf3. White is able to prevent both those ideas, but in any case Black enjoys sufficient activity for his pawn.

[30...Kh7 2.31/27 was called for. 31.Qf5+ *(31.Qxb7 Rd8±)* 31...Kg8]

31.Re1+-

[Less strong is 31.Qxb7 Rd8+-]

31...Qxa4 5.67/23

[⌓31...Kh7 3.67/24 32.Re7 *(32.Qxb7 Rd8±)* 32...Qg4]

32.d6+-

[32.Qxb7 Re8 33.Rxe8+ Qxe8=]

32...Rd8 33.b3

[Worse is 33.Qxb7 Qf4=]

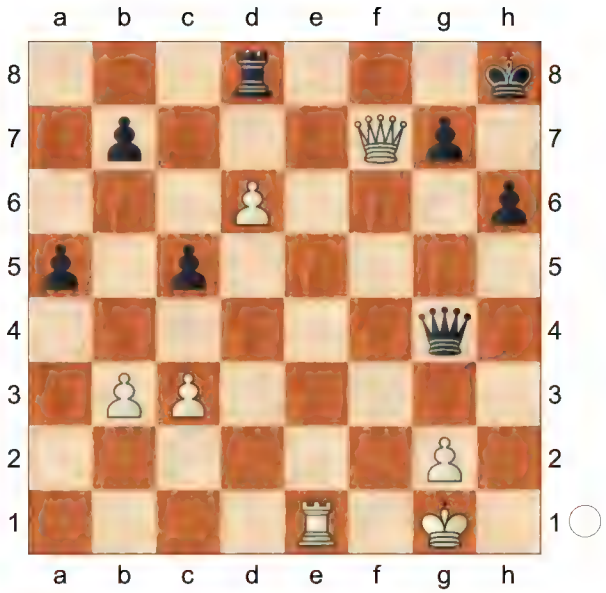
33...Qg4

(Diagram)

34.Re8+! Pretty much an only move, but with White now rather tied down, van Foreest is able to turn up the pressure.

[Not 34.Qxb7 Qg3 35.Re6 Qxc3=]

34...Rxe8!? 35.Qxe8+ Kh7 36.d7! Esipenko rushes to exchange the queens and White is now sufficiently active too to ensure Black can do no more than draw. **36...Qd1+ 37.Kh2**



Qd6+ 38.g3 Qd2+ 39.Kh3 Qd5 40.d8Q Qf5+ 41.Kg2 Possibly **41...Qc2+!?** , keeping pieces on and leaving White with moves to find was a better winning try. **42.Kf3** might have been a safer defence, and if

½-½

B33

□ **Alekseenko,Kirill** **2698**

■ **Giri,Anish** **2763**

Candidates Tournament (6) 23.03.2020

[Giri,Anish, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4

My opponent has a lot of experience playing the Italian and I even read some praise of his skills in this subtle opening by Magnus Carlsen himself. **4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5**

I played with ...a6 more often, but this system is one of the main lines as well. Black stops White from grabbing space on the queenside. **8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7** After some thought I decided to

deviate from the main theoretical move. **10.Be2** If White wants to look for an advantage in this variation he has to do it somewhere between now and move 13, because after I got the d5 break, my position was very fine. On every move White has alternatives. **10...0-0 11.0-0** Instead, White could play d4 or h3 already here. **11...Nd7** It looked sensible to kick the bishop while it is forced to go to a4, before he pushed d4. **12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3** White has an edge. **13...a5! 14.c3**

[14.f4 exf4 15.Bxf4]

[14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Rc8 25.Bc6 Ne5 26.b5 Ng4 27.Rae1 Be5 28.h3 Nxf2 Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5. 00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1]

14...f5 The e5 pawn is not hanging because of the Bxf2+ Qf6+ trick in the end and in general, Black got a good version of this central pawn break. I was satisfied with this position, rarely does one get a slight edge with Black against such a well prepared player. That said, white's position remains solid, of course. **15.f4**

[15.b4 f4 16.Nc4?? -0.44/22 Shocking, after such a long sequence of great defensive moves, I really didn't expect White to stumble here. 89.h5 also draws, but 89.Nh1+ is a very direct variation. 7 hours is a lot of hours though. *(16.Qc2*= 0.00/19 *)* 16...b6 17.Re1 Kh8! White must have missed this move. The pawn endgame is lost, and now that the white king is misplaced, so is the knight endgame. 18.Rb1 Ba6]

15...exf4

[15...Nc5 0.62/20 15...Bf6 0.21 16.Be3]

[15...Bf6 Here in the mutual time trouble, I briefly thought I am sort of winning it, but unfortunately White finds the only moves: 16.Bb5! exf4 17.Bxf4! Here it has slowly became apparent that White escaped, so I tried some last tricks and surprisingly it worked, already when I really didn't expect it to. g5 18.Be3 f4 19.Bd4 Classy way to do it, but not even the only way. Bxd4+ I was wondering what if I keep both f-pawns and try to get my knight to e6 and eventually get some f4 Kf5 in. With good defense White can prevent that, but even more importantly with the next move my opponent doesn't even give me that. 20.Qxd4! Ne5]

16.Bxf4 b6N

[16...g5 17.Be3? This is suddenly a losing mistake, although not so suddenly. At this point I was already wondering if I am not actually winning, but in fact White has a findable defense. f4? I liked the look of this move, but I missed the strength of 80. Kg2!. Black had two ways to win, both quite subtle, but the main key was to keep the knight dominated. 18.Bd4 Threatens to win with Nc4. Ne5 19.Nb5! I didn't count on this move. With little time on the clock as well, I felt how it started slipping away. Bf6 20.c4]

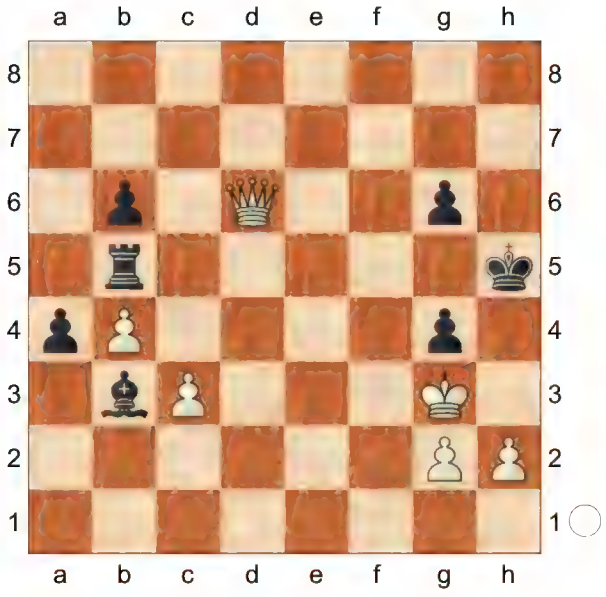
[16...Bf6 17.Nb5 Be5 18.Qd2 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 Ne5 Sveshnikov 7.Nd5-Sveshnikov 7. Nd5 #26]

17.Nb5 Nc5 I spent a little too long on this obvious move, but I was trying to pin down my small plus and hesitated a

lot between this move and the more direct 17...Ndf4. **18.Nd4** Sensible, White wants to finish his development too.
18...Bg5
[18...Bf6 19.Nc6 Qc7 20.Bb5 Ba6 21.Be3]
19.Bd3 0.14/18
[19.Bb5 Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Qf6 21.Qe2 Ra7 22.Re1]
[19.Bb5± 0.83/22]
19...Bxf4= 20.Rxf4 Very natural to trade down with tempo, but objectively White should give up the bishop pair to equalize. **20...Qe8**
[20...Qg5 21.g3 Bd7 22.Bb5 Bxb5 23.axb5 Rae8 Repels Ne6]
21.Qd2 Prevents Qe3+ Taking on g6 was again a better option.
[21.Rf3! Nxd3 22.Qxd3 f4 23.Raf1 g5 This stops Ke4, but the knight is completely misplaced here.]
[21.Nxf5? perishes. Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Qe3+ 23.Rf2 Rxf5-+]
21...Nxd3?! I planned this from very far and it does look pretty, but quite clearly after I played it I realized that it was an awful idea. I simply miscalculated.
22.Qxd3 Qe5! Fortunately I got my mind back in time and noticed that my original plan of keeping the e-file with Nxf4 fails to Be4 when I am suddenly in trouble, as the f4 knight is hanging. **23.Raf1 Qxd5 24.Nxf5?!** Intending Ne7+ and mate. Tempting check, but actually White will regret it later. No funky business works here. **24...Qc5+**
[24...Rxf5 25.Qxd5+]
25.Nd4 This move came as a surprise, I expected White to fish for some chances in 25.Ngf5, though after 25...Bc5 I didn't see how he can proceed.
[25.Ne3 Rxf4 26.Rxf4 Black must now prevent b4. The first moment I got hopeful. I think the knight should roam free. Be6 27.h3]
25...Rxf4 26.Rxf4→ Strongly threatening Qe4. White attacks. **26...Bd7 27.Rf1** next Qf3 is good for White.
27...Re8?! The problem was that I considered mostly the natural move ...g6, which was well met with Ne4 and once I spotted Qf6 I was just too happy not to play it. In fact I was sort of proud of this move, but it was actually here where I let the biggest part of my edge slip.
28.Kh1! Now that White retreats Black enjoys a pawn structure for free, but at the same time, White is still very solid and it is hard to convert Black's position edge into something real. **28...Qd5**
[28...Bxa4 29.Qf3 Prevents Qd5 Qc4 Dodges Qf7+]
29.Qg3 Bxa4
[29...Rf8 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 31.Qh4 Bxa4 32.Qxh7]
30.Nf5 g6 Hoping for ...Rf8. very sloppy. I played this swiftly and usually these inclusions happen indeed automatically, but here it was important to regroup the queen immediately to d6, which I later realized turned out to be not so easy.
31.Nh6+ Kg7! 32.Qh4 And now Rf7+ would win. **32...Re4?!** 3.48/35
Black is now going downhill. I had to of course go Qc7 to keep any winning chances, but not wanting such an endgame in general and having refused it in much better version earlier, I acted too stubborn.
[32...Qe6! 33.Rf7+ *(33.Nf7!? Rf8□ 34.Qh6+ Kg8 35.Qxf8+ Kxf8 36.Ng5+ Qf5* Double Attack *37.Nxh7+ Kg7 38.Rxf5 gxf5 39.Ng5±)* 33...Kh8 34.Rf1! Prevents Qe1. Qd4+ is the strong threat. Kg7!]
[32...Qe6!= 0.00/28 and Black is

okay.]
33.Ng4!+- Qf6+ would kill now. **33...h5**
34.Qf6+ Kh7

I bluffed that I had Nc5-Nd3, but obviously White has many ways to deal with it. Now the position is just totally equal. Black still has a better pawn structure on the queenside, but White's queen is more centralized. **35.Qf8! hxg4 36.Rf7+ Qxf7 37.Qxf7+** Endgame. KQ-KRB **37...Kh6** (-> ...Re1+) At this point I had given up on this game and expected White to smoothly coast towards equality. My opponent, however, decided to use the momentum which was in his favour for the last few moves and decided to try his luck. **38.Kg1?** Taking on b7 would be the easiest when White should manage it quite easily. At first I thought the move in the game was fine as well, but then I noticed that I can reply with the calm **38...Kh5!** Now it turns out that White can no longer win back the pawn.
39.Kf2
[39.Qd5+ Re5 40.Qxd6]
39...Bc2 40.Qd5+ Re5 41.Qxd6 Accompanied by the draw offer, to which I by accident instantly replied "yes, I can see that." Embarassing stuff and my only excuse is that the draw offer came as a shock. **41...Rb5** Black of course has a way to play on. **42.b4** White is clearly winning. **42...Bb3**
[42...a4 43.Kg3 All forced. Now we get a 3 vs 2 endgame. I wanted to prevent g4 for a while and I am not sure if White can play without f4 forever. Something to think about. Carlsen-Anand is a game to study. The position was the same with colors reversed and White having a4-b3-c3 vs b6-c5 pawns. There Vishy defended better than Kirill, conceptually, as he kept the knight around good squares, but eventually stumbled as well, after meeting h4 (there a5) with g4(b5) instead of gxh (bxa). a3 44.Qd8]
43.Kg3! After a long think my opponent pulled himself together and found the way to defend. My advantage started to evaporate as I started to calculate the lines deeper and finally I settled on the long line which seemed to offer some practical chances. **43...a4!**



44.c4! Repels Rd5 I expected this move, but turns out there was a cleaner way for White. **44...Rf5**
[44...Bxc4 I actually didn't see how White could clinch the draw here and it seems there is no way. 45.Qf6! White finds the right way, bailing out into a pawn down knight endgame, which obviously should be within. g5 46.Qg7 Bd3 Repels Qh7+ 47.Qd7]
45.Qxb6 Kh6 46.Qe3+
[46.Kxg4 Bxc4 47.Qd8 *(47.Qe3+ Kh7+-)* 47...Kh7 48.Qc7+ *(48.Qd7+ Kh6+-)* 48...Bf7]
46...Kh7 47.Qe7+ Kh6! 48.c5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.33.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=1 --- Inaccurate: White=1 Black=6
OK: White=13 Black=14
Best: White=4 Black=5
Strong: White=1 Black=1 . Loss on time!?
0-1

B33
□ **Asadli,Vugar** **2578**
■ **Dubov,Daniil** **2714**
36th ECC Open 2021 (7.3) 24.09.2021
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5
[11...Rb8 is somewhat more common these last few years.]
12.Nc2 0-0 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 Kh8!? As usual, Daniil demonstrates fresh (or well-forgotten) ideas in the most current lines.
[14...a5 15.Bc4 Rb8 16.b3 Kh8 is the trendy line, and it was covered in many games on the site. 17.Nce3 g6 18.h4 Bxh4 19.g3 Bg5 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Bh4+ 22.Kd2 Ne7 23.Qg1 *(23.Kc1 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Be6 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Ra2 Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Qf6 28.Qd2 Bg3 29.Rf1 d5 30.Bxd5 g5* Sveshnikov Nd5-Positional Line Open Sicilians 2019 *)* 23...Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Be6 25.Qh2 g5 26.fxg5 Bxg5+ 27.Kc2 h6 28.Raa1 Rg8 29.Rag1 Rg6 30.Nf4 Bxf4 31.Qxf4 Qf6 10.Ba3 b6 11.ba5 Nh5 (2721)-Kavakul,M (2746) La (wch-m/23) 1892 (10) ½-½]
15.Be2N A practical choice by the young GM from Azerbaidjan.
[The only game in the PGN Archive saw 15.Nce3
A) A clear improvement over this game would be 15...Ne7!
, as later tested in some correspondence games: 16.Bd3 *(16.Be2 Bb7 17.0-0 a5 18.Qd3 Bc6*= Mcdermott,F – Baroin,B ICCF email 2018 *)* 16...Bb7 17.0-0 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 a5 Black didn't face any problems in Jones,K - Hudak,D ICCF email 2018;
B) 15...Bxe3?! 16.Nxe3 a5 17.Bc4 *(17.Qd5!?)* 17...Ne7 18.0-0 White managed to convert his positional advantage into a full point. Tiviakov,S (2567)-Van der Wiel,J (2558) Rotterdam NED

2000 [Fed] f5 19.exf5 Nxf5 20.Qd2 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Rxf1+ 22.Bxf1 Bb7 23.b4 axb4 24.Rxa8 Bxa8 25.cxb4 Qb6 26.b5 g6 27.Qc3 Kg7 28.Kf2 Bb7 29.Be2 h5 30.Qb4 Qc7 31.h4 Qf7+ 32.Kg3 Qc7 33.b6 Dauvergne,D (2567)-8.Qe2 cd4 9.Rd1 (2558) Copenhagen 1993 1-0 Qc1 34.Kf2 Qc6 35.Bf3 Qc2+ 36.Kg3 Bxf3 37.Kxf3 Qd1+ 38.Kg3 Qe2 39.b7 Qxe3+ 40.Kh2 e4 41.Qb2+ Dauvergne,D (2567)-8.♕e2 cd4 9.♖d1 (2558) Copenhagen 1993 1-0]

[Another natural continuation is 15.Bc4!? f5 *(*In case of *15...a5* we are back to the usual theoretical stuff *)* 16.h4 *(*The quieter *16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Nce3* Black must now prevent Nxf5. *Be6 18.0-0 a5* looks acceptable for Black due to his play on the f-file. *)* 16...Bh6 17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Nce3 Be6 0.77/19 *(18...Bxe3±* 0.41/22 was preferrable. *19.Nxe3 a5)* 19.Ng4 White was better in Dardha,A - Fakhrutdinov,T Chess.com INT 2020]

15...f5? 0.72/20 Daniil goes for the most ambitious way, but this move is premature.

[More to the point is 15...Ne7 16.Ncb4 *(16.Nce3 a5 17.0-0 Bb7* leads to a position from the above-mentioned note. *)* 16...a5 ...Bd7 would now be deadly. 17.Nxe7! This was Gomez Barrera,J - Silva,C Santa Cruz 2014 Now the natural Qxe7N 18.Nd5 Qb7 19.b4 axb4 20.Rxb4 Qc6 would have offered Black comfortable equality.]

[15...Ne7= 0.27/23]

16.exf5± White is more active. **16...Bxf5**

17.Nce3? 0.31/16 This move looks very natural. Excellent horsemanship.

[but much stronger was 17.h4!

A) 17...Bf4 18.g3! is very problematic, since Bh6? 1.90/19 *(18...Rb8±* 1.06/20 *19.gxf4 Rxb2)* 19.g4! just drops the bishop.;

B) 17...Bf6 18.Nce3 Be6 19.Bf3 Black is positionally busted here - the a6 and d6 pawns are permanently weak, and he has no counterplay on the k-side.]

[17.Rxa6 Rxa6 18.Bxa6 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Qa5∓]

[Better is 17.h4!± 0.78/20 Bh6 18.g4]

17...Be6!± 18.Bg4 -0.05/16 A novelty.

[The only preceding game saw 18.0-0 a5 19.Bg4 0.00/23 *(19.Bc4±* 0.36/23 is superior. *)* 19...Bf7 20.Qd3 Rb8⇄ Yee,S - Ferdiman,T Kuala Lumpur 2008]

[18.0-0± 0.31/25]

18...Bg8= GM Dubov reasonably decides to keep the tension.

[18...Bg8!?]

19.Bf3 Strongly threatening Be6!

19...Rb8 Traditionally the pressure on the Pb2 fully compensates the weak Pa6. **20.Rxa6 Qc8**

[Daniil had a decent alternative at his disposal: 20...Rxb2!? 21.Rxc6 *(21.0-0!? Ne7 22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.Qxd6∓)* 21...e4 22.Be2 Bxd5 23.Nxd5 *(23.Qxd5?* -4.67/17 23.Nxd5 0.08 *Bxe3! 24.fxe3 Qf6*-+ leads to a quick collapse. *)* 23...Qe8 24.Rxd6 Qe5 the activity of all the pieces and the unsafe Ke1 provides Black with full compensation, to say the least!]

21.Qa4 Bxd5

[Good enough was also 21...Nd4!?

22.Bg4 *(*After *22.cxd4 exd4* The vulnerability of Ra6 allows Black to regain the piece and seize the initiative. *)* 22...Qb7 23.0-0! aiming for Rb6. Bxd5 24.Nxd5 Qxd5 25.cxd4 , and a draw becomes practically unavoidable.]

22.Nxd5

[22.Bxd5? Ne7 23.Bf3 *(23.Bb3? Bxe3 24.fxe3 Rxb3-+)* 23...Bxe3 *(23...Rxb2 24.Nd1=)* 24.fxe3 Qc5-+ *(24...Rxb2 25.0-0∓)*]

22...Nd4 A nice tactical resource.

23.cxd4 e4? 2.10/21 This over-optimistic decision could have invited big trouble.

[Correct was 23...Qc1+ 24.Qd1 Bd2+ 25.Kf1 And now Qxc1 would win. Qc4+ 26.Qe2 *(26.Be2?* -1.52/18 26.Qe2 0.00 *Qxd4* is just bad. *)* 26...Qc1+ 27.Qd1 Threatens to win with Qxc1. Qc4+=]

[23...Qc1+= 0.00/22 and Black is okay. 24.Qd1 Bd2+ 25.Kf1 Qc4+ 26.Qe2 Qc1+ 27.Qd1 Qc4+ 28.Qe2 Qc1+ 29.Qd1]

24.Bd1!+-

[24.Bxe4? Qc1+ 25.Qd1 Bd2+ 26.Ke2 Qc4+ 27.Bd3 *(27.Kxd2? Qxd4+ 28.Bd3 Qxb2+ 29.Qc2 Rxf2+ 30.Kd1 Rxc2-+)* 27...Qxd4-+ *(27...Qxd5 28.Qxd2 Qxg2 29.Rf1∓)*]

24...Bd2+ This is beautiful, but insufficient.

[24...Qf5? 25.0-0 Qxd5 26.Ra5+-]

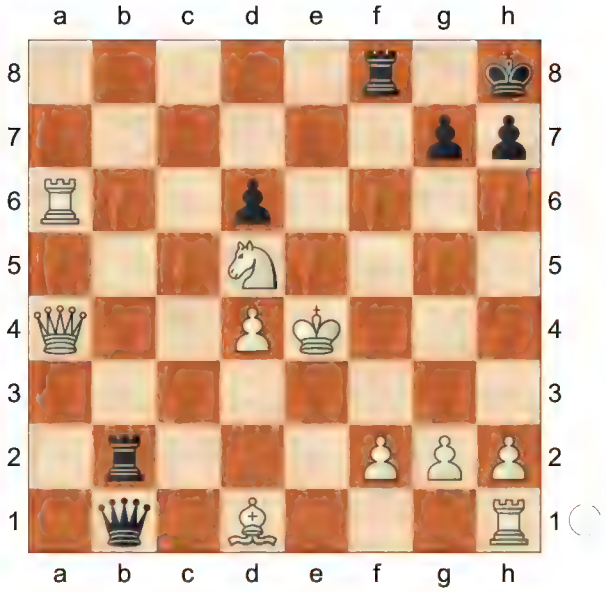
25.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 26.Ke3 Qc1+ 27.Kxe4 Qb1+ 28.Ke3 2.44/18

[⌓28.Bc2! 1.98/30 Qxh1 29.Ne3 *(29.Rxd6 Qxh2 30.f4 Qg3∓)* 29...Qxh2 30.Kd3]

28...Qc1+ 29.Ke4!

[29.Kd3 Rd2+ *(29...Rbxf2?* loses. *30.Ra8+-)* 30.Ke4 Qb1+= *(30...Rdxf2? 31.Ra8+-; 30...Rdxf2? 31.Ra8+-)*]

29...Qb1+



30.Ke3? 0.00/27 Luckily for GM Dubov, his lower-rated opponent is satisfied with sharing a point.

[Instead, had he played 30.Bc2! Qxh1 31.Ne3 Hoping for Ra8. Qxh2 32.Kd3+- White would be able to fully consolidate. Most probably, converting the material advantage isn't a very tough task here.]

[30.Bc2!+- 2.29/27 Qxh1 31.Ne3 *(31.Rxd6 Qxg2+ 32.Kd3 Qxh2=)*]

30...Qc1+= 31.Ke4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise) .

Loses game:	---	Black=1
Missed win:	White=1	---
Mistake:	White=3	Black=1
OK:	White=4	Black=8
Best:	White=2	Black=2
Strong:	White=2	

Black=1
½-½

B33

□ **Alekseenko,Kirill** **2699**
■ **Krasenkow,Michal** **2597**
FIDE World Cup Europe Hybrid Qual (3.2)
[Krasenkow,Michal, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Nepomniachtchi got off to a great start in the Zagreb GCT tournament (although he faded towards the end) . This game showed how dangerous he is as a 1. e4 player. **1.e4** Roiz,M Roiz,M Roiz,M **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** Roiz,M: 'GM Krasenkow can be considered one of the top Sveshnikov experts.' **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5** Roiz,M: 'After the Caruana – Carlsen match this forgotten line became extremely popular.' **7...Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.b4N** Roiz,M: 'In the decisive game Kirill is trying his luck with a novelty that doesn't seem to offer White anything special. Well, at least he deviates from known paths!'
An experimental move, which has not been played in known games so far. Of course, its main idea is to avoid theory, and now White's challenge is to find a suitable plan :-).
[The original and aggressive 9.Qf3 (Roiz,M) is covered in So,W (2770)-Carlsen,M (2862) chess24.com INT 2020 [Roiz,M]]
[The main discussions recently took place after 9.a4 (Roiz,M) This position was seen in many games in our PGN Archive.
A) 9...Be7 10.Be2 *(10.Bd2 0-0 11.a5 a6 12.Na3 Nd7 13.Nc4 f5 14.Bb4 Rf6 15.Qd2 Rg6 16.g3 e4 17.h4 b5 18.axb6 Nxb6 19.Na5 Bd7 20.0-0-0 Bf6 21.Nc6 Qe8 22.Kb1 Kh8 23.h5 Rh6 24.Qe3 Na4* Ian Nepomniachtchi-Nepomniachtchi,I *)* 10...0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3 a5 14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1;
B) 9...Nd7 10.Be2 Be7 11.Bd2 f5 12.a5 0-0 13.0-0 e4 14.Nd4 Ne5 15.a6 b6 16.Bf4 Bd7 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.dxc6 Qc7 20.Qd5+ Kh8 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Qe6 Bd6 23.Bb5 Rf6 24.Qc4 Bauer,W-Nickel,A corr 52/(149) 1990]
9...a6 Roiz,M: 'Michal reasonably decides to get rid of the annoying knight. '
[Worth attention is also 9...Be7!? Roiz,M 10.a4 0-0 11.a5 f5 12.c4 a6 13.Nc3 e4⇄ White has grabbed lots of space on the q-side, but Black's standard counterplay in the centre shouldn't be underestimated.]
10.Na3 a5 Roiz,M: 'A double-edged decision. Black weakens b5, but initiates active play along the a-file.' A logical move to prevent ♘a3-c4.
[Possible was also 10...Be7 Roiz,M 11.Nc4 0-0 12.a4 Bf5 13.Be2 Bg6 14.0-0 Nd7⇄ A complex strategic struggle is ahead.]
11.c3 White has an edge. **11...Be7**
12.Nb5 -0.10/24
[Another route of the knight - 12.Nc4

(Roiz,M) would also have led to unclear play: axb4 13.cxb4 0-0 14.a4 b5 15.Na5 bxa4 16.Qxa4 Bg5!⇄ Black's lead in development is obvious here.]

[12.Nc4 0.28/24 should be considered.]

12...0-0 13.Be2 f5 Roiz,M: 'Michal chooses the most ambitious plan of extending on the k-side.'

[Quieter was 13...Na6 Roiz,M 14.bxa5 Qxa5 15.0-0 Bd7 16.c4 Nc5=]

14.0-0 f4 I assumed that the weakness of the e4 square was inessential; it was more important to restrict White's c1 bishop and prevent f2-f4.

[However, it was more accurate to start with 14...Bd7!∓]

15.Bg4 -0.29/26 Roiz,M: 'A somewhat risky choice.' This exchange is hardly useful as this bishop can't be treated as "bad".

[Roiz,M: 'More to the point was' 15.a4!? Nd7 Roiz,M 16.bxa5 e4! 17.f3 e3⇄ with mutual chances.]

[Better is 15.a4 0.29/25]

15...Na6= An obvious move (with the idea to oust or exchange White's b5 knight by ...♘a6-c7) but this knight would probably be more useful on b6. So

[⌓15...Nd7 (not fearing a check on e6)]

[Roiz,M: 'GM Krasenkow could have liquidated into the better endgame with' or even 15...Bxg4 Roiz,M: '!' '!' '!' 16.Qxg4 Qd7!? , and if *(16...Qc8* Roiz,M *17.Qxc8 Rxc8 18.a4 axb4 19.cxb4 Nd7∓* The d5-pawn feels very weak. *)* 17.Qe6+ Qxe6 18.dxe6 then simply Nc6 , and 19.Nc7 Rac8 20.Nd5 axb4 21.cxb4 Bf6 is not dangerous for Black.]

16.bxa5 Nc7 Roiz,M: 'A sensible idea - by exchanging the strong Nb5 Black consolidates the situation on the q-side.'

[⌓16...Nc5 17.Ba3 Rxa5!? 18.c4 *(18.Bxc5 Rxb5 19.Bb4 Bxg4! 20.Qxg4 Qc8∓)* 18...Ne4↑]

[16...Nc5 feels hotter. 17.Ba3 Rxa5 18.Bxc5 Bxg4 19.Qxg4 Rxb5 20.Bb4 Qc8]

17.a4 Nxb5 18.axb5 Rxa5 19.Rxa5 Qxa5 Roiz,M: 'The position is roughly equal now.' I was satisfied with my position as White couldn't maintain the material balance. However, I underestimated his counterplay.

20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.Qg4 Qxc3

[21...Rxc3? 22.Bd2+-]

22.Bd2 -0.37/26 **Qc2∓**

[22...Qxd2? perishes. 23.Qxc8+ Kf7 24.Qe6+ *(24.Qxb7 e4+-)* 24...Kf8 25.Ra1+-]

23.Qd7 Wards off Re8 **23...Bf8** Roiz,M: 'This is too passive.' Despite a long contemplation, I failed to find the most accurate sequence of moves:

[Roiz,M: 'Safer was' 23...Rc7! 24.Qe6+ Kf8! 25.b6! *(≤25.Ra1* -0.91/20 25.b6 -0.52 *Rc8! 26.Be1 Re8∓)* 25...Rc8 but even then White keeps good counter-chances after 26.g3! *(26.Bb4* -0.76/19 26.g3 -0.36 Roiz,M *Rd8* White can hardly put more pressure on Black's pawns. *)*]

24.b6! Roiz,M: 'The activity of the Qd7 makes it tough for Black to find adequate moves.' **24...f3?!** 0.52/22 Roiz,M: 'An impulsive move, that puts Black in danger. Well, such important games are usually nervous.'

[Roiz,M: 'Black should have played' ⌓24...h6 Roiz,M: '!' '!' '!' 25.Qxb7 Qd7 is the strong threat. *(25.h4* Roiz,M *Rc4* , maintaining the

balance. Then play might continue: *26.Rc1 Qa4 27.Qxb7* Black must now prevent Rxc4. *Rxc1+ 28.Bxc1 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Qxc1 30.Qd7 Qc5 31.b7 Qxf2*= with a perpetual. *)* 25...Rc5 , and White has hardly anything better than forcing a draw by 26.Qd7 Qxd2 27.Qe6+!

A) 27...Kh8 And now ...Rc1! would win. 28.Qf7 Rc8?? 2.62/19 *(28...Kh7*= 0.00/28 *)* 29.b7;

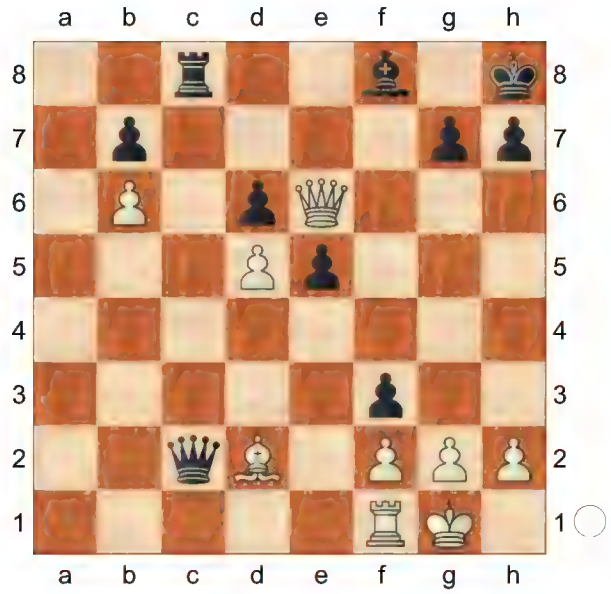
B) 27...Kh7 Strongly threatening ... Rc1! 28.Qf5+ Kg8 29.Qe6+]

[Black should play 24...h6= 0.00/25]

25.Qe6+!±

[25.Qxb7? too greedy. Qg6 26.g3 Qf5-+]

25...Kh8



26.gxf3 0.50/23 Roiz,M: 'White has regained the pawn, and now Black is doomed to passive defence.'

[26.g3!± 0.89/26]

26...Qg6+ What else? But in the endgame initiative rather belongs to White, due to his space advantage and strong b6 pawn. And besides... Black still underestimates the danger! **27.Qxg6 hxg6** KRB-KRB **28.Bg5!**

Roiz,M: 'Black's bishop has no moves.'. Dodges Be7 Well-judged! The exchange of bishops is favourable for White as it secures his b6 pawn.

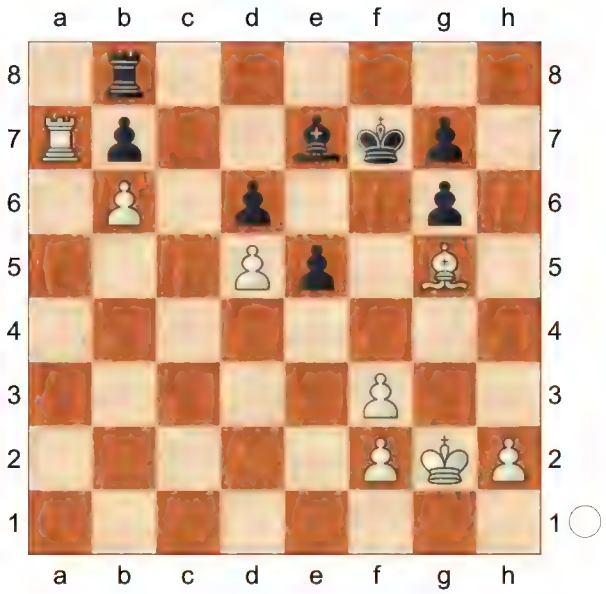
[In case of 28.Ra1 0.21/26 28.Bg5 0.67 Be7! 29.Ra7 Rb8 White would not be able to make progress.]

28...Kg8 29.Ra1 Kf7 30.Ra7 Rb8

Roiz,M: 'A sad necessity.' **31.Kg2**

[31.Ra4!? Rc8□ 32.Ra7=]

31...Be7



32.h3?? -4.52/25 Roiz,M: 'Alas, this game was decided by a mouse-slip. There were a few such accidents in this Hybrid championship.' A mouse slip, despite the default option of move confirmation applied in the tournament. Either my opponent had switched it off or automatically pressed the confirmation button... **32...Bxg5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.10 (very precise) .

Loses game: White=1 ---

Mistake: White=4

Black=1

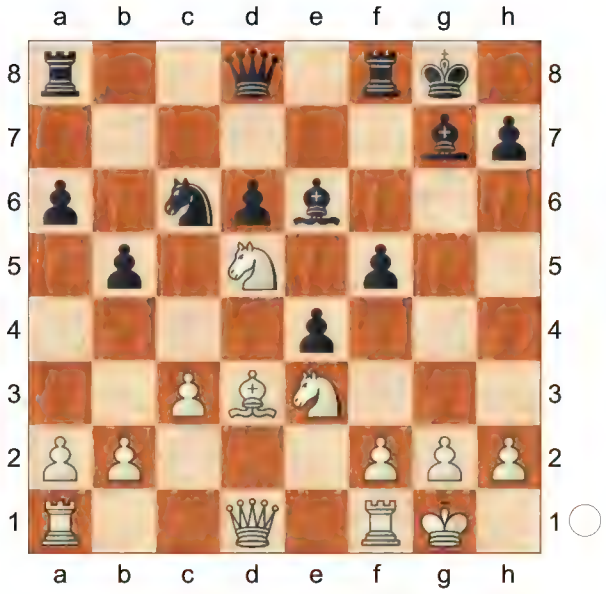
Inaccurate: ---

Black=2

OK: White=10
Black=9
Best: White=3
Black=3
0-1

B33
□ **Topalov,V** **2740**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2861**
Cote d'Ivoire Blitz 2019 (13.1) 12.05.19
[Pap,Misa, MH]

Robert Ris: 'GAME' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.c3 f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc2 0-0 14.Nce3 Be6 15.Bd3 f5 16.0-0 e4** Robert Ris: '
[This advance was considered to be somewhat premature, as it enables White to get a nice grip on the dark-squares. However, as we will see, matters aren't that clear and I believe it's a good alternative to the main lines. A typical mistake here is to fight for the d5-square right away by means of 16...Ne7? which drops a pawn after 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bxf5! as Bxf5 19.Nxf5 Rxf5 20.Qd5+ would lose more material.]
[Moreover, Black can't win a piece by means of 16...f4? as it runs into 17.Qh5! and now the difference with 16.Bc2 becomes obvious as White hasn't wasted a tempo with his bishop and castled kingside instead. Rf7 18.Bxh7+ Kf8 19.Bg6 *(19.Bf5* is also possible. *)* 19...fxe3 20.fxe3 Raa7 21.e4 and despite the extra piece, Black isn't able to untangle: Kg8? 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.h4! Ne7 24.Bxf7 Bxf7 25.Rxf7+ Kxf7 26.Rf1+ 1-0 Quintiliano Pinto-Aranha Filho, Goiania 2016.]
[The main continuations 16...Kh8 and]
[16...Ra7 , both with the idea to prepare ... Ne7, have been worked out in quite some detail. Since I believe the text is objectively sound and leads to relatively fresh positions (rather than positions worked out till move 40 or even deeper!) I think it's a more pragmatic to study this sideline.]



' **17.Nf4**
[The only move, the automatic 17.Bc2? leads to problems after f4! as the knight doesn't have any good square, while the piece sacrifice 18.Bxe4 *(18.Ng4 Qg5!* and Black wins. *)* 18...fxe3 19.Qh5 exf2+ 20.Kh1 Rf7! (an important defensive resource!) 21.Bxh7+ Kf8 22.Bg6 Raa7 23.Bxf7 Rxf7 and soon Black's pieces got mobilized and decided White's fate in Cantin Zaborras-Glavina, Spain 1997.]
17...Bf7

[17...Bd7!? 18.Bc2 Ne5 19.Qh5 Rf6 20.Qg5 Qf8 21.Ned5 Rh6 22.Nb6 Ra7 23.Nxd7 Rxd7 24.f3 exf3 25.Bxf5 Re7 26.Be4 Kh8 27.g3?? *(27.Nd5 Rf7 28.Rf2=)* 27...Rf7 28.Nd5 *(28.Bxf3 Bf6! 29.Qf5 Nxf3+ 30.Rxf3 Bd4+-+)* 28...Rh3 29.Qd2 Ng4 30.Rxf3 Rxf3 31.Qg2 Qb8 32.Bxf3 Rxh2-+ 0-1 (47) Alexakis,D (2460)-Gukesh,D (2599) Plovdiv 2021]

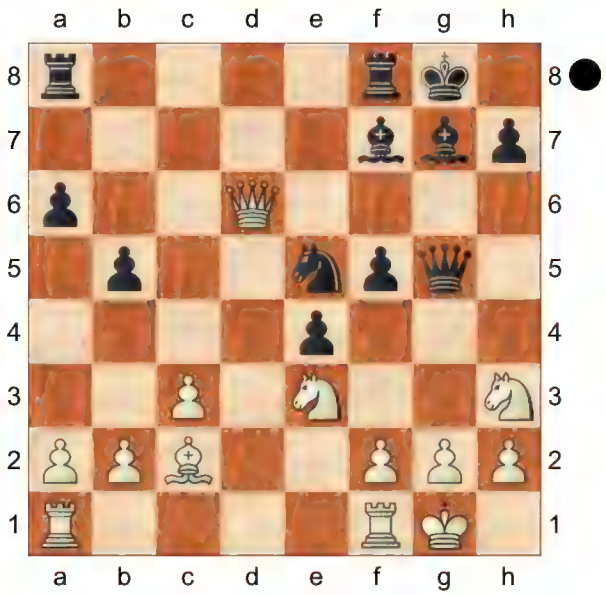
18.Bc2 Robert Ris: 'The natural square as White intends exchanging off the light-squared bishops with Bb3.' **18...Be5** Robert Ris: '?!' '?!'

[This has been Black's top choice for quite some time, but I doubt the objective soundness. The reason why I decided to take 16...e4 as my main option is a recently played computer game which went 18...Qg5!? which aims to put White's blockade under pressure and invites White to take the pawn on d6. Robert Ris: 'leads to a repetition.'

A) 19.Nh3 Qg6 20.f3 *(20.Nf4 Qg5* leads to a repetition. *)* 20...Rae8 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Rf5 Ne7 23.Rg5 Qe6 24.Bb3 and now in Palmkoeck-Sanchez Rodenas, ICCF 2003, Black retreated the queen to d7, but a more dynamical continuation is d5!? which does seem to give Black full compensation for the pawn, e.g. 25.Nxd5 Nxd5 26.Bxd5 *(26.Qxd5 Qb6+ 27.Qc5 Qxc5+ 28.Rxc5 Bxb3 29.axb3 e3* is also unproblematic for Black. *)* 26...Qb6+ 27.Kh1 e3 and Black is doing absolutely fine.;

B) 19.Nfd5? isn't possible now, because of f4!;

C) 19.Qxd6 Ne5 20.Nh3



C1) Luring the bishop to d1 seems to be a small refinement upon the alternative 20...Qg6 21.Rfd1 *(21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.Ng5 Bh6 23.Nxf7 Kxf7* leads to an endgame where Black seems to have sufficient compensation for the pawn and great chances to seize the initiative. I was impressed by the following game: *24.Rad1 Bxe3! 25.fxe3 Ke7 26.Rd4 Rad8 27.Bb3 Rxd4 28.cxd4 Nd3 29.Rb1 a5 30.a3 a4 31.Bc2 Rc8!* and White got into some serious trouble in Tellier-Kurgansky, ICCF 2012. *)* 21...Kh8 22.Qxg6 hxg6 23.Ng5 Bg8 24.h4 Rad8 25.Bb3 Bf6 26.Bxg8 Bxg5 27.hxg5 Kxg8 28.a4 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 bxa4 30.Rd6 and although this might be holdable, the endgame is quite tricky for Black, as in Harvey-Turczynski, ICCF 2013.;

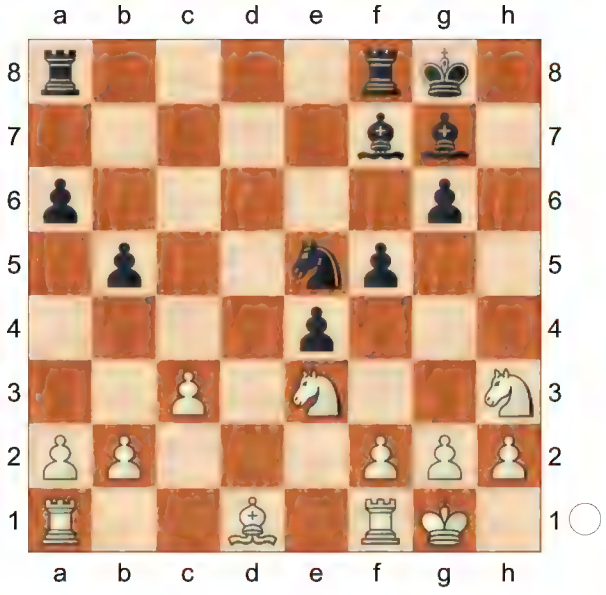
C2) 20...Qh5!?

C2a) 21.Rfd1?! Kh8 22.Kh1 was seen in Heyn-Fritsche,

DESC email 2003, and now Black's play could be improved with Bg6! 23.Nd5 *(23.Nf4?! Qh6 24.Nxg6+ hxg6 25.Rd5 Rae8* gives Black wonderful attacking prospects. *)* 23...Nc4 and I think White has to be careful.;

C2b) After 21.Nf4 Black has the option to repeat moves, but more enterprising is Qh4!? *(21...Qg5* is fine for Black, forcing White to retreat the knight to h3, as *22.Ne6? Qf6* would lose material. *)* 22.Nfd5 Bg6 and the position of full of play, anything can happen!;

C2c) 21.Bd1 Qg6 22.Qxg6 hxg6



23.Ng5 *(23.Be2 Bh6!* keeps the knight on h3 out of play. *)* 23...Bc4 24.Bb3 a5 25.Bxc4+ bxc4 26.f4 Nd3 27.Rab1 Bf6 28.h4 Rac8 and it was not easy for White at all to use the extra pawn in Laser 230319-AllieStein v0. 3dev-n4, TCEC 2019. The positions are worth examining and promise Black chances of outplaying the opponent in the endgame despite the minus pawn.]

19.Nfd5 Kh8 Robert Ris: '?!' '?!'

[Carlsen deviates from the common path, which goes 19...Qg5 which has been played by players like Kramnik and Van Wely, but doesn't seem to promise Black full equality.]

20.f4

[Robert Ris: 'A standard idea. The position after' 20.Nxf5± Bxd5 21.Qxd5 Rxf5 22.Qxc6 d5 Robert Ris: 'might also slightly favor White, but certainly offers Black some practical counterchances, in view of the attacking ideas with opposite-coloured bishops. After the game's continuation White is completely in control.' 23.g3 Rf6 24.Qc5 Rc8]

20...exf3 21.Qxf3 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qh4 23.g3 Rg8 24.Nf4 Qh6 25.Bxf5?

[25.Bb3+- Robert Ris: '!' '!' Robert Ris: 'when his advantage remains beyond any doubt.']

[Of course, it's possible to play 25.Qxc6 Bxf4 26.Qf3 and then take the pawn on f5, but the position remains tricky with all Black's major pieces looking at the white king. In any case, White's best option here is]

25...Raf8⇄ 26.Ne6 Robert Ris: '??' '??' Robert Ris: '

[The decisive blunder, after which the game abruptly ends. Better would have been 26.Ng2 Ne7 27.Qd3 when White retains a clear edge.]

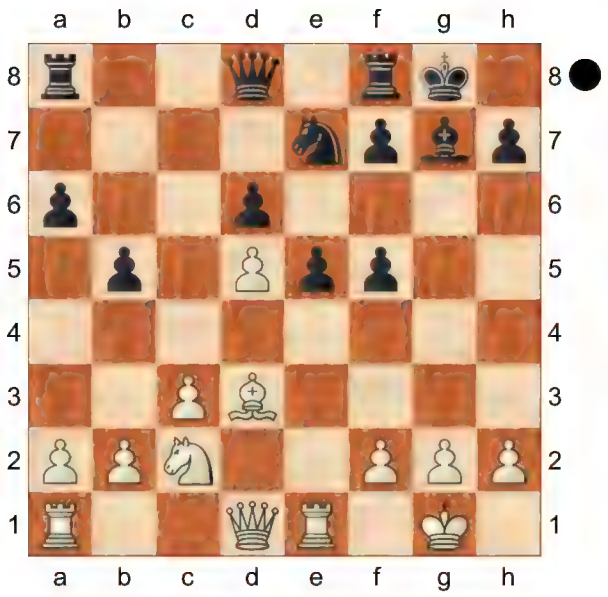
' **26...Bxg3** Robert Ris: '!' '!' **27.hxg3 Rxf5** Robert Ris: '!' '!' **28.Qxf5 Rxg3+** Robert Ris: 'and White resigned, in view of' **29.Kf2 Qe3#**
0-1

		B33
□	**So,Wesley**	**2754**
■	**Grischuk,Alexander**	**2772**

Moscow FIDE Grand Prix (2.3) 22.05.19
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6
[9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 is what Wesley played in the Classical game, but Black didn't face any real problems (even though he was struggling for a draw till the end)]
9...gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6
Some of the lines are explored so deeply here, they last till move 30 or 40 and end in a drawish endgame. Well, this is modern chess! **12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7! 14.Re1 Bg7**
[14...Nxd5 15.Bxb5+ *(15.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 15...axb5 16.Qxd5+-]
15.c3 0-0
[15...Nxd5? 16.Bxb5+ *(16.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 16...axb5 17.Qxd5+-]
16.Nc2 This move is new for our PGN Archive. After 16...Rc8 we could have transposed into Robson - Kasimdzhanov, but Alexander illustrates another convincing way of solving the problems. GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '
[16.Qh5 This move looks more appealing, though it shouldn't bother Black either: e4 17.Bf1! Re8 18.Nc2 Nxd5 19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qh3 Qb6 *(*Less attractive seems *20...Qf6* Inarkiev,E (2702)-Gelfand,B (2729) Nazran RUS 2017 [Roiz,M] *)* 21.Rad1 Rae8 22.Rxe4 Rxe4 23.Rxd5 R4e5 led to an unbalanced position with mutual chances in Robson,R (2667)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2663) Saint Louis USA 2019 [Roiz,M] 24.Rd3 Qc5 25.Ne3 f5 26.b4 Qc8 27.f4 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.Qxe3 Bxc3 30.g3 Kf8 31.a3 Bb2 32.Qd2 Bxa3 33.Qxd6+ Kf7 34.Qd3 Bc1 35.Bg2 h5 36.h4 Kg7 37.Qd4+ Kg6 38.Qd6+ Kg7 4.c3 ♘f6 5.e5/6...f5 (2667)-9.00 ♘bd7 10.b3_66364 (2663) 114/53 Plovdiv 2012 (1.1) 1-0 39.Qe7+ Kh8 40.Qf6+ Kh7 41.Qe7+ Kh8 42.Qg5 Be3+ 43.Kh2 Qe6 44.Qxh5+ Kg7 45.Qg5+ Kh7 46.Bf1 Qe4 47.Bh3 Qc2+ 48.Bg2 Qd3 49.h5 Bd4 50.Qg6+ Kh8 51.Qh6+ 4.c3 Nf6 5.e5/6...f5 (2667)-9.00 Nbd7 10.b3 (2663) 114/53 Plovdiv 2012 (1.1) 1-0]

(Diagram)



'. The position is equal. **16...f4N** The massive pawn advance on the k-side puts White's king in danger. GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '!?'

[16...Nxd5?! 17.Bxf5 Nf6 18.Nb4±]

17.a4 bxa4

[17...f5 , as only tested in correspondence games, also seems viable: 18.axb5 e4 19.Bf1 axb5 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Nb4 Against Qa2 Ng6 with decent counter-attacking prospects.]

18.Nb4 The most consistent.

[Hardly better is 18.Rxa4 a5 Prevents Nb4. 19.Na3 f5 20.Nc4 e4 21.Bf1 Ng6 with rich play on the k-side, as usual.]

[18.Rxa4?! a5±]

18...f5 19.Bxa6 A dubious novelty, but the real mistake comes later. GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '?!'

[Another human encounter saw 19.Rxa4 Ng6 20.Rxa6 -0.46/25 , and now Black should have played *(20.f3*= -0.04/23 *)* 20...Qg5!∓ Threatens to win with ...e4.

(20...Rxa6?! 0.20/22 20...Qg5 -0.38 *21.Bxa6 Qg5 22.f3±* allowed White to consolidate and maintain his extra pawn in Volokitin,A - Moiseenko,A Kiev 2013 *)* 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 , obtaining a dangerous initiative.]

[Another natural continuation is 19.Nc6 GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '∞' Nxc6 20.dxc6 d5 0.52/21 *(20...e4!? 21.Bc4+ Kh8 22.Rxa4 f3⇄; 20...e4=* 0.00/28 *)* 21.Qxa4± f3 22.Rad1 0.00/23 *(22.Bxa6±* 0.57/19 *f4 23.gxf3)* 22...Kh8 Black had enough counterplay in Tsydypov,Z - Frolyanov,D Kazan 2017]

19...Ng6 Already White's position looks suspicious here, but only his next move invites serious trouble. **20.Qh5?** -1.21/20 Now there is no harmony in White's setup, so Black's attack is becoming exceptionally powerful.

[Much better was 20.Rxa4 e4 Hoping for ...Qg5. 21.Nc6 Qb6 *(21...Qg5!? 22.Kh1□ f3 23.gxf3 Nf4±)* 22.Qe2 Ne5 Black has sufficient compensation for the pawn, to say the least.]

[20.Qxa4 f3 21.g3 e4±]

[20.Rxa4= -0.21/21 e4 21.Nc6]

20...Qb6!∓ 21.Rxa4 e4 White's pieces are stuck on the q-side, and the king feels very weak. GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '→' **22.Rea1** -2.25/21

[22.Raa1∓ -1.31/21]

22...Kh8 This doesn't spoil much.

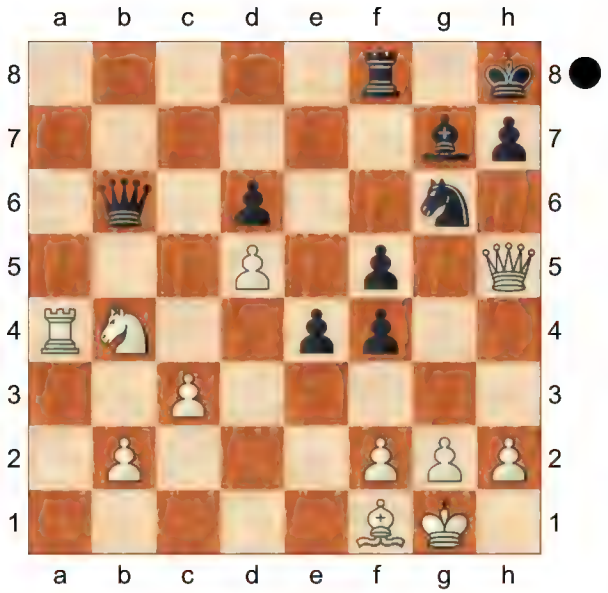
[The energetic 22...f3! And now ... fxg2 would win. 23.gxf3 Kh8 24.Kf1 Nf4 25.Qh4 Be5 would have offered Black a decisive attack.]

23.Bf1 -1.86/21

[23.Bc4∓ -1.40/19 Rxa4 24.Rxa4]

23...Rxa4-+ 24.Rxa4

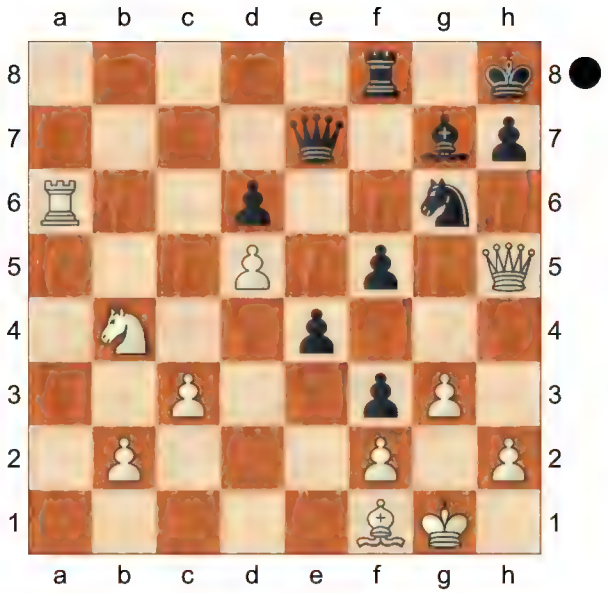
(Diagram)



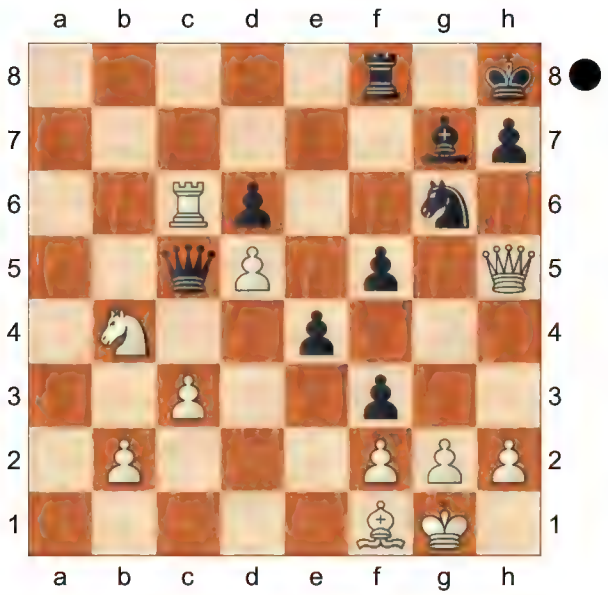
f3 25.Ra6
[25.gxf3 Nf4 26.Qh4 Rg8∓]
25...Qc5 ...fxg2 would now be deadly. Black has strong compensation. **26.Rc6**
[26.gxf3 Be5 27.Qg5 Bf4-+]
26...Qa7
[26...Nf4 27.Rxc5 Nxh5 28.Rc4=]
27.Ra6
[27.Rxd6? Nf4 28.Ra6 Qxa6 29.Nxa6 Nxh5-+]
[27.gxf3? Be5 28.Nc2 Rg8-+]
27...Qc5 Alexander misses another golden opportunity to win the game! Luckily for him, in the second game Wesley found himself in a difficult endgame and was thoroughly outplayed.
[27...Qe7 GM Davorin Kuljasevic: '⟶' 28.g3 *(28.Nc6* -1.76/22 28.g3 -1.15 *Qb7* Strongly threatening ...fxg2. *29.Ra7 Qxb2-+)*

(Diagram)

Inhibits Nf4. 28...e3! 29.Qxf3 f4 White must now prevent ...fxg3. 30.Nc6 Qg5 31.fxe3 Nh4 32.Qxf4 Nf3+ 33.Kf2 Qxg5 is the strong



threat. Nxh2-+]
28.Rc6
[28.gxf3 Be5 29.Qg5 Bf4-+ Decoy]



28...Qa7
[Inferior is 28...Nf4 29.Rxc5 Nxh5 30.Rb5=]
29.Ra6 Undoubtedly, White can be satisfied to share the point at this stage of the game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise) .
Mistake: White=3 ---

Inaccurate: ---
Black=2
OK: White=7
Black=8
Best: White=1
Black=1
Strong: ---
Black=1
Brilliant: ---
Black=1

[29.Rxd6? is the wrong capture. Nf4 30.Ra6 Qxa6 31.Nxa6 Nxh5-+]

[29.gxf3? too greedy. Be5 30.Nc2 Rg8-+]

½-½

B33

□ **Topalov,Veselin** **2740**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2761**
Abidjan GCT blitz (5) 11.05.2019
[Edouard, Romain, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4!?
White wants to play a reversed Najdorf if Black opens the position (...♘f6 and ... d5), otherwise he wants to push b4 as soon as possible. **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5** Again, Black has several options now. **6...d6!? 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6! Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 15.Nce3**

[15.Bc4]

15...Bxe3

[15...Rb8

A) 16.b3 Kh8 17.Bc4 g6 18.h4 *(18.Qe2 f5 19.h4 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 f4 21.Qd2 Bd7 22.Ra1 Be6 23.Kd1 Ne7 24.Kc2 Nxd5 25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.Qxd5 Qb6 27.Rhf1 Rfc8 28.Ra4 Rc5 29.Qe6 Rc7 30.Qd5 Rbc8 31.Qxa5 Qxa5 32.Rxa5 Rxc3+* 5.Be2 0-0-0 6.Be3 (2672)-Vit spelar 7.Sgf3 (2741) 4/493 Sochi 1967 (7) 0-1 *)* 18...Bxh4 19.g3 Bg5 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Bh4+ 22.Kd2 Ne7 23.Kc1 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Be6 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Ra2 Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Qf6 28.Qd2 Bg3 29.Rf1 d5 30.Bxd5 g5 Wium,O-Kristal,L URS Army Team-ch 1981;

B) 16.Ra2 Kh8 17.Bc4 g6 18.h4]

16.Nxe3± Although White didn't win, Topalov could enjoy a nice advantage here. **16...Rb8N**

[16...Be6 17.Bc4 Rb8 18.Qd2 Qd7 19.0-0 Rfd8 20.Rfa1 Qb7 21.Bd5 Qb5 22.Nc4 Rodriguez Vila,A (2524)-Lujan,M (2360) Buenos Aires (m) 2009]

17.Ra2 White is slightly better.

[17.Nc4 -0.05/19 17.b3 0.42 Be6]

[17.b3 Ne7 *(17...Be6 18.Bc4 Ne7 19.0-0)* 18.Bc4 Bb7 *(18...Kh8 19.0-0)* 19.Qd3 Kh8! aiming for ...f5! 20.0-0 f5! was another game of Topalov. Black is quite solid here, but with the bishop pair, White has the better prospects on the kingside. 1-0 (38) Topalov,V (2749)-Bacrot,E (2708) Paris 2017

A) 21.Nxf5 0.02/14 21.Rd1 0.53 Nxf5 22.exf5 Be6 is the strong threat. Bc6 Strongly threatening ... Qg5! *(22...d5 23.Bb5)* 23.Ra3 d5;

B) 21.Rd1! Bxe4 22.Qxd6 Qxd6↑ 23.Rxd6!? Nc8 24.Re6 Nb6 25.Rxa5!? Nxc4 26.Nxc4 could be quite nice for White, who took advantage of the move ...g6, indicating that Black's dark-squared

bishop won't make it to c5. Rxb3 27.f3 Rxc3 28.Nxe5]

17...Qh4 0.79/15

[17...Be6 18.Bc4 Qc7± 19.Qd3!? is another option - playing a reversed Najdorf/Scheveningen. *(19.0-0* -0.02/18 19.Qd3 0.50 *Bxc4 20.Nxc4 Nb4! 21.cxb4 Qxc4)* 19...Ne7 0.91/12 *(19...Nd8±* 0.44/10 deserves consideration. *)* 20.0-0± Ng6]

[17...Ne7 18.Bc4 Kh8!? 19.0-0 f5]

[17...Ne7= 0.21/11]

18.Bc4

[18.Bd3 -0.10/3 18.Bc4 0.91 Be6]

18...Be6 Threatens to win with ...Bxc4.

[18...Qxe4? 2.38/16 18...Bb7 0.78 19.Bd5!]

19.Qd3

[19.Qxd6? Bxc4 *(19...Qxe4 20.Bxe6 Rbd8 21.Bd5±)* 20.Qxc6 Bxa2-+]

19...Qe7 20.0-0 Rfd8 21.Rd1 Qb7

[21...Qc7

A) 22.Rd2 Ne7 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Qc4 Qxc4 25.Nxc4 Rdc8↑ These structures are always a bit better for White. 26.Nxd6!? 0.02/11 *(*White should play *26.Ne3±* 1.16/12 *)* 26...Rxc3!= (-> ...Rc1+) 27.g3!? also makes sense. Rc1+?! is not as bad as in the previous game (with the b1-knight on c3 and a3-pawn on a2) but still not great: 28.Kg2! Nc6;

B) 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Qc4 Kf7 24.Qe2 Kg8± 0-1 (47) Bocharov,D (2594)-Inarkiev,E (2686) Sochi 2018 25.Qg4 0.25/18 *(25.Qc4±* 1.31/21 *)* 25...Qf7]

22.Rd2 Qb6 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Qc4 Kf7 25.Qe2 Kg8? 26.Qg4 Kf7 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.Qh3 White is more active. **28...Re8 29.Ra1**

[29.Rxd6 0.51/9 29.Qh5 1.33 Qb3 30.Ra1 Qxb2]

[29.Rxd6 Qb3 30.Ra1 Qxb2∓]

29...Qc5

[29...Qc7 1.60/15 29...Qb5 1.17 30.Rad1 Rbd8 31.Nc4]

30.Rad1 Rbd8 31.Rd3 1.15/10

[⌓31.Qh5 1.52/11]

31...Kh8 1.97/10

[31...a4

A) 32.Qh4 0.63/15 32.Qg4 1.03 Rf8 1.20/13 *(32...Ne7!±* 0.63/15 *)* 33.Qg4 0.50/11 *(33.Ng4±* 1.20/13 *)* 33...Rf6;

B) 32.Qg4 Na5 33.Nc2? -0.12/16 *(33.Qh5±* 1.46/19 And now Ng4 would win. *Rf8 34.Ng4)* 33...Nc4= 34.Rg3± 0-1 (42) Grischuk,A (2782)-Caruana,F (2799) Saint Louis 2017 Re7 35.Qh4 -0.67/11 *(35.Qg5=* -0.30/22 *Rf8 36.Ne3)* 35...Rdd7 0.14/13 *(35...Rf8∓* -0.67/11 *36.Ne3 Ref7)*]

[31...a4± 1.15/10 keeps fighting. 32.Qg4 Kh8]

32.Qh4 0.92/10

[32.Qh5+- 1.97/10]

32...d5? 3.44/17 **33.R1d2?** 0.10/10

[33.exd5 followed with b4, ♘bd2 or ♘c3, depending on your taste! exd5!? is an option, to prevent ...♗c5, just like in a reversed Najdorf. 34.Rxd5 generally gave White good positions: Rxd5 35.Rxd5 Qb6 36.Qc4]

[33.exd5+- 3.44/17 exd5 34.Rxd5]

33...d4= 34.Nc2 Rb8 35.Rh3 -0.45/16

[35.cxd4 -0.34/19 35.Qh5 0.04 exd4]

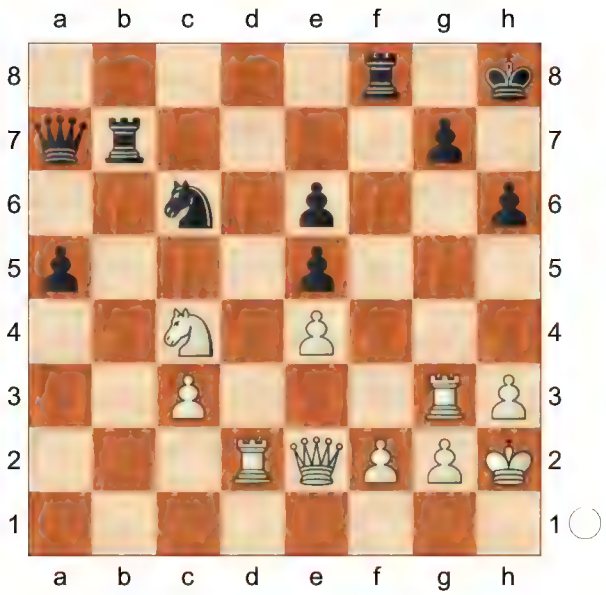
[Don't play 35.cxd4 exd4 36.Ne1 *(36.Nxd4?* too greedy. *Rxb2 37.Rd1 Nxd4-+)* 36...Qc1∓]

[35.Qh5= 0.01/15 feels stronger.]

35...h6∓ 36.Qh5 Red8 37.Na3 -1.72/22

[37.Ne1∓ -0.35/22]
37...Rb7? -0.01/27
[37...Rxb2!-+ -1.72/22 38.Rxb2 Qxa3]
38.Qg4? -2.69/18
[38.Rg3= -0.01/27]
38...Rdb8? 0.00/27
[38...Rxb2!-+ -2.69/18 39.Rxb2 Qxa3]
39.Rg3= Re7 40.h3 Rf8 41.Rc2 Qd6 42.Nb5 Qb8
[42...Qc5 43.Qe2 Rb7 44.Na3 a4 45.Nc4± -0.47/19 *(45.Kh2*= 0.02/18) 45...Na5!? 0.02/21 *(45...Rbf7∓* -0.47/19 is superior. *46.Qd3 dxc3)* 46.Nxa5= Qxa5 47.Qc4]
43.Qe2 Rb7 44.Na3 dxc3
[44...a4+- 45.Qc4+- Rxb2+- 46.Qxc6!+- Rxc2+- ⌓47.Nxc2 Qb1+!? 48.Kh2 Qxc2 49.Qd7 Rg8]
45.bxc3 Rb3 46.Nc4 Rb1+
[46...a4 1.19/10 46...Rb7 0.38]
47.Kh2 Qa7? 2.33/11
[47...Rb7± 0.70/18]

48.Rd2!+- Rb7 2.55/18
[48...Rf7 1.95/6 is a better defense. 49.Rg6 Qe7]



49.Qg4? 0.45/20 A wild game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.36.
Loses game: White=1
Black=2
Missed win: White=2
Black=2
Mistake: White=4
Black=3
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=13
Black=4
Best: White=3
Black=3
Strong: White=1 ---
[49.Qg4? 0.52/15 49.Rd6 2.13 Re7 1.10/11 *(49...Rxf2?* 5.41/21 49...Rd7 0.59 *50.Rxf2! Qxf2 51.Qxe6; 49...Rd7±* 0.52/15) 50.Rd6± Qc7 51.Rxe6 Rxe6 52.Qxe6 Rxf2? 4.65/23 *(52...Rf6±* 1.33/24 is a better chance. *53.Qg4 Rf4)* 53.Qe8++- Kh7 54.Qg6+ Kh8? 55.Ne3]
[49.Rd6!+- 2.55/18 Rc7 50.Qg4

(50.Rxe6 Qxf2 51.Qh5 Qf4+-)]
½-½

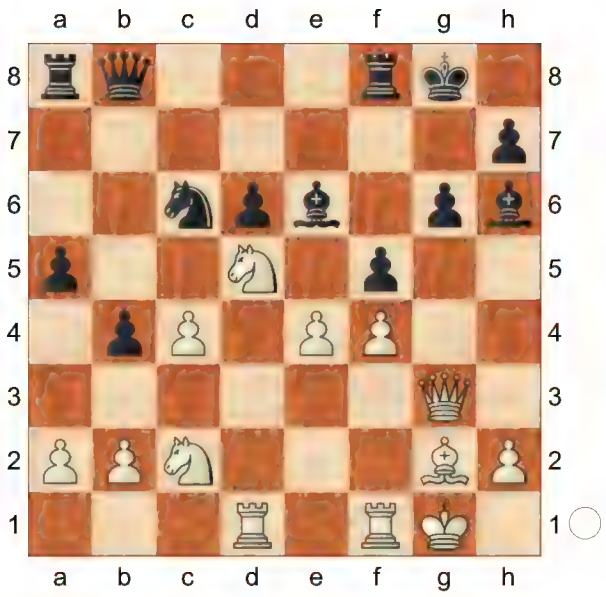
B33

□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2773**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2817**
Tata Steel-A 81st (8) 20.01.2019
[Anand,Viswanathan, MH]

1.e4 Anand, Viswanathan **1...c5**
One of his favorite openings, so no surprise there. **2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4** This, however, is new from him, he has only played 3...Bf5 before. **4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0** I was relieved to see this.
13.g3
[13.h4]
13...a5?!
[13...Bg5 14.h4 Bh6]
14.Bg2
[14.h4 Be6 15.Bh3]
14...Bg5 15.0-0 Here I started to like my position, since my pawns on b5 and a4 restrict the ♗d7 and I will be able to occupy d4. **15...Be6**
[15...Ne7]
16.Qd3
[16.b3]
[16.h4 Bh6! 17.b3]
16...Bxd5
[16...Bh6 A good suggestion by the engine. 17.Rad1 Ra7 18.f4 exf4! is a clever way to exploit g5. 19.gxf4 g6 20.Nde3 Qb6 0.92/23 *(20...Qh4±* 0.36/22 *21.f5 Bc8)* 21.Kh1± Rd8 0.85/21 transposes to my own game with Black against Vitiugov. I remembered being quite comfortable in that game. *(21...a4±* 0.46/18 *)* 22.b3± Qc5 simpler to play 23.f5 0.61/22 *(23.Qe2±* 1.14/22 *)* 23...Ne5± 24.Qe2! Bc8 25.Qe1 Strongly threatening Qh4. Re8 26.Nd5 Bg7 Against Nf6+ 27.Qh4]
[16...Ne7 17.Nde3 Bxe3 18.Nxe3 Qc7 19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.b3! Nc6 21.Nc2 and Ne5 is good compensation. a4 22.Rd2 axb3 23.axb3 Qb6 Now White has several tries: 24.h4 Ra2 25.Rb1 h6 26.Kh2 Qc5]
[16...Qb8
A) 17.f4 Bd8 18.Kh1
and by clamping down on e5, White should have enough compensation, a4 19.b3 h6 20.Rad1 for instance Qb7 but White isn't better. 21.Nde3 Bb6 and now Bxh7+ doesnt work: 22.Nf5! -0.51/22 *(22.f5±* 0.31/18 *Bc8 23.bxa4)* 22...Rfd8 23.Qe2 axb3 24.axb3 Ra2 25.Rd2 -0.42/22 The reason for c2-c3. *(25.Qg4!=* -0.05/24 *Bxf5 26.exf5)* 25...Kh7;
B) 17.Rad1
B1) 17...g6 0.72/21 17...Bd8 -0.01 18.f4 also works. exf4 19.gxf4 Bh6 20.Qg3 f5? 2.46/21 *(20...Bg7 21.f5* wins, due to Rg3+.*; 20...Bg7±* 0.88/21 was called for. *)*

(Diagram)

21.Nde3!+- Threatens to win with exf5. Qc7 22.exf5 Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Rxf5 24.Ne3 Rff8 25.Nd5? 0.47/19 *(25.Qh3+-* 2.36/20 *Bg7 26.f5)*;
B2) 17...Bd8= 0.00/23;
B3) 17...Qa7! 0.43/22 18.b3
The best move, with the obvious stamp of the computer. Rad8



19.h4 Now Black can go either ... Qf6 or ...Qb6+-g6 and so defend, . Bh6 20.a3 bxa3 21.Nxa3 Nd4 22.Nb5 is a draw. Nxb5 23.cxb5 Qb7 24.Rfe1 Rb8 25.Bf1 Rfc8]

[16...Rb8 17.b3 and Black escapes, but this is all inhuman. Qd7]

17.cxd5 My optimism notwithstanding, Black is extremely solid here.

[17.exd5

A) 17...Nb8! The best way to return the pawn. 18.h4 0.14/23 *(18.c5!±* 0.57/20 might be stronger. *)* 18...Bh6 19.a3 -0.46/18 *(19.c5! dxc5; 19.c5!±* 0.31/22 *)* 19...Na6= 0.18/18 White should be able to blockade on d4, but isn't really better. *(*Black should try *19...b3!∓* -0.46/18 *20.Qxb3 Nd7)* 20.axb4= axb4 21.Rxa6! Rxa6 22.Nxb4 Ra8 23.Nc6 Qd7 24.b4 f5;

B) 17...Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 Here this bothered me a bit. 19.Qxd4 -0.04/19 *(19.Be4±* 0.37/22 *)* 19...Bf6!= The point. 20.Qd2 a4]

[17.Qxd5 Qb6]

17...Nb8! 18.a3

[18.h4 Bh6 *(18...Be7* 0.46/23 18...Bh6 0.09 *19.a3 bxa3 20.Rxa3* Rfa1 would now be deadly. *Nd7 21.Rfa1* aiming for Nb4! *Nc5 22.Qc4 Rb8* Prevents Nb4. *23.b4 axb4 24.Nxb4* Nc6 is the strong threat. *Qb6 25.Nc6)*]

18...Na6? A natural move, but an error.

[18...bxa3! are fine for Black. 19.Nxa3 Nd7 20.Nc4 White isn't in time with this. Qc7! 21.f4 *(21.Ra3!)* 21...Bf6 22.Rac1 Rfb8 23.Qe3 -1.11/21 doesn't work now... *(23.Kh1=* 0.02/17 keeps the balance. *)* 23...exf4∓ 24.gxf4 Rb4!]

19.axb4 Threatening a fork with Qd2.

19...Nxb4 20.Nxb4! The point.

20...axb4 21.h4 Bh6 22.Bh3

[22.Qc4 - it's hard for White to make progress. b3 and 23.Qxb3 Bd2 Dodges Qc3]

22...Qb6 23.Bd7 Now its over.

[23.Qc4 Qc5 *(23...Rfb8 24.Qc6 Qd8)* 24.Qxc5 Both 24...dxc5]

23...b3 24.Bc6 Ra2 25.Rxa2 bxa2

26.Qa3 Shak blunders immediately, but the position is won anyway.

[26.b3 Rb8 27.Ba4 is even stronger. Rc8 And now ...Bc1 would win. 28.Ra1 Rc1+ 29.Rxc1 is a good swap of pawns for White. Bxc1 30.Qc2!? White wants to mate with Qc8+. g5 31.Qxa2 *(31.Qxc1* Hoping for Qa3. *Qd4! 32.Qxg5+)* 31...gxh4 32.gxh4 Qd8]

26...Rb8?

[26...Qd4 27.Qxa2 Qxe4 28.Qa3 Rd8+-]

27.Qxa2! Qxb2

[27...Qd4 28.Qa4]

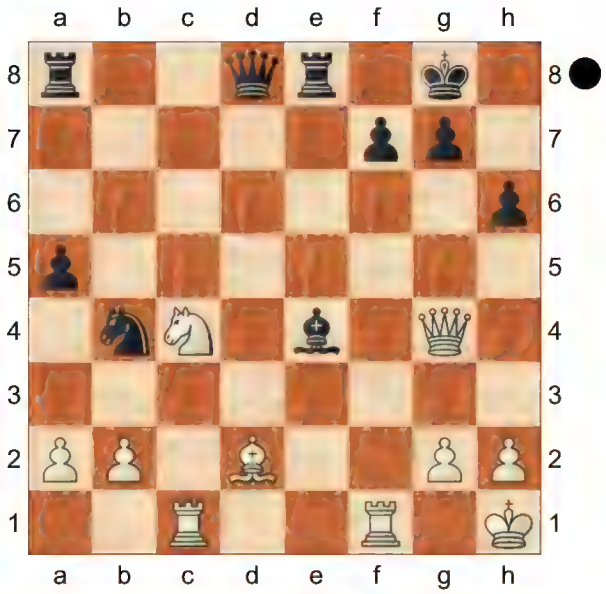
28.Qxb2 Rxb2 29.Ra1 Followed by Rd1 collecting the ♗d7. **29...g6**

1-0

B33

□ **Ponkratov,Pavel** **2539**
■ **Gelfand,Boris** **2620**
Wch Blitz Almaty (10) 29.12.2022
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Dobrov,V: 'Inf 89/106' Dobrov,V: 'Inf 89/(106)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Nxe7 Nxe7 11.f3**
[11.Bd3 Bb7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qh5 d5 14.0-0-0 d4 15.Nb1 Qa5 16.a3 b4 17.Qh6 Ng6 18.g3 Rb8 19.f4 b3 20.c4 dxc3 21.Nxc3 Rc8 22.f5 Ne7 23.Qxf6 Rxc3+ 24.Kb1 Rg8 25.bxc3 Qxa3 Coll Sola,J (2612)-2 b4 and 2 a3 (2674) Muenster-IM 64351 1993 (1) 1-0]
11...d5 12.exd5 Nexd5N 0.03/13
[12...Nfxd5∓ -0.34/12 13.c4 bxc4
A) 14.Nxc4 f6 15.Bd2 0-0 16.Be2 Be6 17.0-0 Nb6 *(17...Nf5 18.Rf2 Nb6 19.Ne3* Petrov,M (2490)-Cheparinov,I (2508) (ch) 89/(106) 2003 *)* 18.Ne3 Qd4 19.Bc1 Nf5 20.Qxd4 Nxd4 21.Bd1 Rfd8 22.b3 a5 Petrov,M (2475)-Dobrov,V (2469) (open) 89/106 2003;
B) 14.Bxc4 f6 15.Bd2 Be6 16.Bb3 0-0 17.0-0 Nc6 18.Nc2 Na5 19.Bxa5 Qxa5 20.Qe1 Qb5 21.Kh1 Nf4 22.Na3 Qb7 23.Bxe6+ Nxe6 24.Nc4 Rfd8 25.b3 Rd5 26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Qxd1 Rd8 28.Qc1 Qd5 11.f3 d5-Maione, M 43/114 Groningen 1986 0-1]
13.c4= bxc4 14.Nxc4 0-0 The position is equal. **15.Be2! Bb7!?**
Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **16.0-0 h6N**
[Data server:: 16...Qe7 17.Bd3 Rad8 Threatens to win with ...Nb4. 18.Qe2 Rfe8 19.Rae1 h6 20.Bd2! Nb4 21.Bb1! Qc5+ 22.Be3 Qb5 23.b3 Nfd5 Wards off Bb6 24.Bd2 Prevents Nc3. Nf4 25.Bxf4! exf4 26.Qf2 Qd7 ½-½ (26) Raidaru,M (2090)-Siigur,J (2317) Estonia 1999]
17.Bd2 -0.33/11
[17.Bh4= 0.15/9]
17...a5 0.19/9
[Black should play 17...Re8∓ -0.33/11]
18.Kh1 -0.24/16
[18.Nxe5 0.19/9 deserves consideration. Qb6+ 19.Kh1]
18...e4 19.fxe4 Nxe4 20.Bf3 Re8 21.Rc1 Nb4 -0.08/30
[21...a4∓ -0.52/11 should be considered.]
22.Bxe4= Bxe4
[22...Rxe4 simplifies 23.Bxb4 Qxd1 24.Rfxd1 axb4 25.Nd6 Re7]
23.Qg4? -3.28/11
[23.Bxb4!= -0.11/9 axb4 24.Nd6]



23...Bg6? -0.48/12
[23...Nxa2 24.Rcd1 f5 25.Qg6=]
[Better is 23...Ra6!-+ -3.28/11

Strongly threatening ...Rg6. 24.Qh3 Nd3 *(24...Nxa2? 25.Rce1-+; 24...Rg6? 25.Rg1-+)* 25.Bxa5 Rxa5 26.Nxa5 Nxc1 *(26...Qxa5? 27.Rcd1-+)* 27.Rxc1 Qxa5]

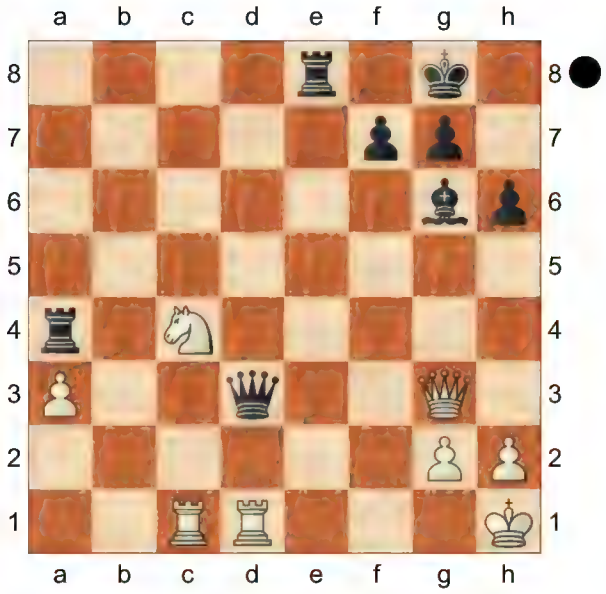
24.Bxb4 -0.91/11

[24.Bc3∓ -0.48/12]

24...axb4∓ 25.a3 bxa3 26.bxa3 Ra4 Hoping for ...Re4. **27.Qg3 Qd3**

28.Rfd1? -4.55/9

[28.Qxd3!= -0.23/10 and White stays safe. Bxd3 29.Nb2 Bxf1 *(29...Rxa3? too greedy. 30.Rf3+-)* 30.Nxa4]



28...Rxc4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.65/ Black=0.46.

Loses game: White=2 ---

Missed win: --- Black=1

Mistake: White=3 Black=2

Inaccurate: --- Black=2

OK: White=6 Black=3

Best: --- Black=2

Strong: White=1 ---

0-1

B33

□ **Corrales Jimenez,Fidel** **2501**

■ **Salem,AR Saleh** **2677**

Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Late blitz (5) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7! 14.Re1 outshines the older 14.c3. erfolgreicher als das alte 14.c3. **14...Bg7**

[14...Nxd5 15.Bxb5+ *(15.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 15...axb5 16.Qxd5±]

15.c3 0-0

[15...Nxd5? 16.Bxb5+ *(16.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 16...axb5 17.Qxd5+-]

16.Nc2 White has an edge. **16...e4N**

[16...Nxd5?! 17.Bxf5 Nf6 18.a4±]

[16...Re8 17.Qh5 e4 18.Bf1 Nxd5 19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qh3 Qb6 21.Rad1 Rae8 22.Rxe4 Rxe4 23.Rxd5 R4e5 24.Rd3 Qc5 25.Ne3 f5 26.b4 Qc8 27.f4 Rxe3 28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.Qxe3 Bxc3 30.g3 Kf8 31.a3 4.c3 ♘f6 5.e5/ 6...f5 (2667)-9.00 ♘bd7 10.b3 66364 (2663) 114/53 Plovdiv 2012 (1.1) 1-0 Bb2 32.Qd2 Bxa3 33.Qxd6+ Kf7 34.Qd3 Bc1 35.Bg2 h5 36.h4 Kg7 37.Qd4+ Kg6 38.Qd6+ Kg7 39.Qe7+ Kh8 40.Qf6+ Kh7 41.Qe7+ Kh8 42.Qg5 Be3+ 43.Kh2 Qe6 44.Qxh5+ Kg7 45.Qg5+ Kh7 46.Bf1 4.c3 Nf6 5.e5/6...f5 (2667)-9. 00 Nbd7 10.b3 (2663) 114/53 Plovdiv 2012 (1.1) 1-0]

[16...f4 17.a4 bxa4 18.Nb4 f5

19.Bxa6 Ng6 20.Qh5 Qb6 21.Rxa4 e4 22.Rea1 Kh8 23.Bf1 Rxa4 24.Rxa4 f3 25.Ra6 Qc5 26.Rc6 Qa7 27.Ra6 Qc5 28.Rc6 Qa7 29.Ra6 Qe7 30.g3 e3 31.Qxf3 Chapter-Games Chapter 3 Game 5]

17.Bf1 Re8 18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 a5!? Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **20.Bb5N**

[Predecessor: 20.Ne3 Rb8 21.Ra2 Qd7 22.g3 Rec8? 1.95/11 *(22...f4!±* 0.32/10 *23.gxf4 Ng6)* 23.Bh3+- Threatens to win with Bxf5! Bh6? 4.13/24 *(23...Rc5* 1.61/18 is a better defense. *24.Bxf5 Nxf5)* 24.Nxf5+- Nxf5 25.Qh5 Ng7 26.Qxh6 Amrutha,M (2163)-Preethi,R (2180) IND-chB (Women) 35th 2008 (11) 1-0]

20...Rf8 21.Nd4 Rb8 White must now prevent ...Bxd4! **22.c4! Qb6** 0.60/18

[22...Ng6= 0.16/22]

23.Nc6± Nxc6 24.dxc6 Qc5 25.Rxa5 Strongly threatening Qd2. **25...Bxb2 26.Re3** -0.06/13 Prevents Bc3.

[White should try 26.Qd2± 0.53/9 Be5 27.g3]

26...Bd4 27.Rg3+ Kh8 28.Ra2 -1.48/10

[28.Rh3∓ -0.57/11 Bxf2+ 29.Kf1]

28...Ra8∓ 29.Ba4 f4 Black is more active. White is weak on the dark squares **30.Rg4** -2.50/12

[30.Rh3∓ -1.48/10]

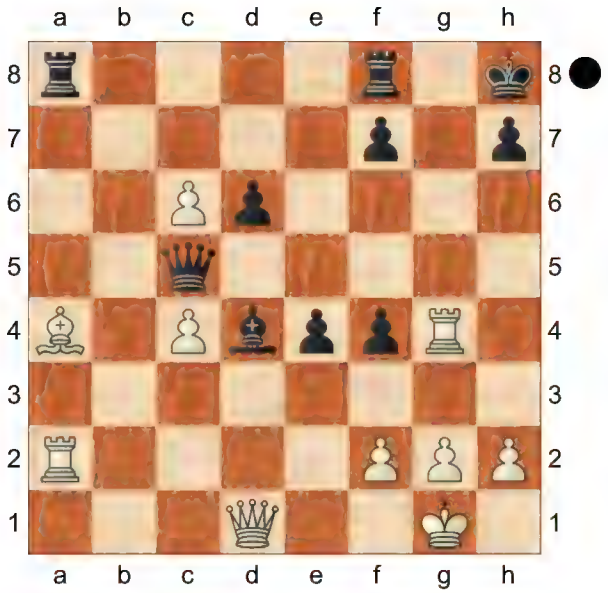
(Diagram)

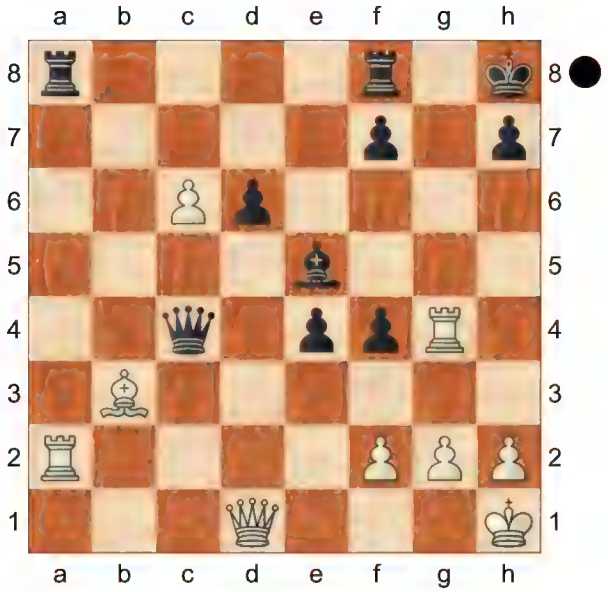
30...Be5!-+ 31.Kh1 -3.40/10

[⌓31.Rh4 -2.27/9 f5 *(31...Qxc4 32.Bb3=)* 32.Kh1]

31...Qxc4 32.Bb3

(Diagram)





Qxc6 -0.80/11

[32...Qc3!-+ -2.57/11 and Black stays clearly on top. Hoping for ...Rxa2. 33.Ba4 d5]

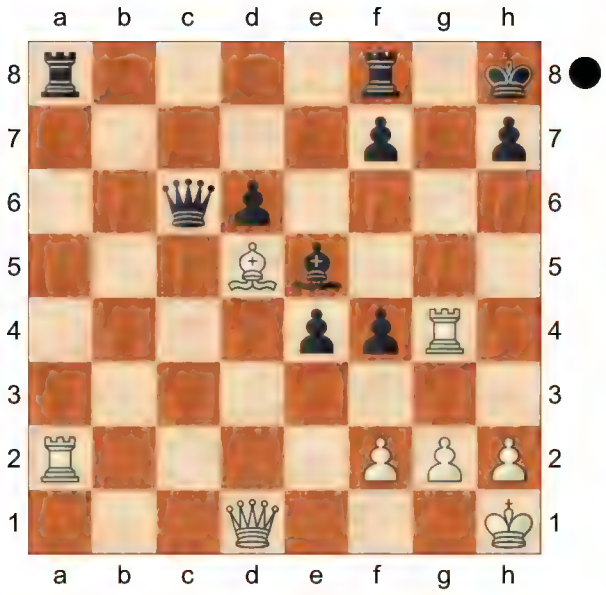
33.Bd5∓

(Diagram)

Rxa2 34.Bxc6 f5⟶ Black mounts an attack.

[Stronger than 34...Rxf2 35.Bxe4 Ra2 36.Bb1+-]

[34...Ra1 simplifies 35.Qxa1 Bxa1



36.g3 e3]

35.Rxf4 -1.40/10 **Bxf4** Now White is beyond hope.

[But not 35...Ra1?! 36.Qxa1 Bxa1 37.g4=]

36.g3 Be5 37.Kg2 e3 38.Kf3 -7.47/17

[⌓38.Bf3 -4.82/13]

38...f4-+ aiming for ...e2. **39.g4 Rxf2+ 40.Ke4 e2 41.Qe1 Rxh2 42.Kd3 f3 43.Bxf3 Rxf3+ 44.Ke4 Rf1**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.91/ Black=0.10 (very precise) .

Missed win: --- Black=1

Mistake: White=6 Black=1

Inaccurate: White=1 Black=2

OK: White=6 Black=10

Best: White=2 Black=5

Strong: White=1 ---

0-1

B33

□ **Dragnev,Valentin** **2523**

■ **Sindarov,Javokhir** **2639**

Wch Blitz Almaty (15) 30.12.2022

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 13.g3 g6N

[13...0-0 14.Bg2 *(14.h4 a4 15.Ncxb4 Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Qb6 17.a3 Bd8 18.Bd3 Qb7 19.0-0 Bb6 20.Nd5 Bd4 21.Rb1 Bh3 22.Re1 Qd7 23.Bf1 Bg4 24.Be2 Be6* Chapter-Games Chapter 28 Game 1 *)* 14...Bg5 *(14...g6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.0-0 h5 17.Qd3 h4 18.Rad1 h3 19.Bh1 Be6 20.Qxd6 Rac8 21.f4 Rfd8 22.fxe5 Qg5 23.Qc5 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nxe5 25.Qe3 Qxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Nxc4 27.Nd5 Nxb2 28.Rb1 Rc2 29.Bf3* Nurgaliyev,S (2016)-Nguyen,T (2534) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (1) 0-1 *)* 15.0-0 Ne7 16.Nce3 *(16.b3 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qd3 Qb6 19.Kh1 a4 20.f4 axb3 21.axb3 Rxa1 22.Nxa1 exf4 23.gxf4 Bf6 24.Nc2 Bc3 25.Bf3 h6 26.Rd1 Qf2 27.Rf1 Qh4 28.Bg2 Re8 29.Ne3 Bh3 30.Nd5 Bxg2+* Nowroozian,N (2695)-10.♘f3 b5 11.♗d3 (2629) DEN-ch Denmark 1987 (1) 1-0 *)* 16...Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Be6 18.Qd3 Qc7 *(18...Qd7 19.Rfd1 Rfd8 20.Rac1 Rac8 21.Nd5 Qa7 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.b3 Qa7 24.Rc2 Qc5 25.Rcd2 Kf8 26.Qf3 Kg8* Balogh,C (2544)-Riazantsev,A (2603) Venaco (rapid) 96/(76) 2005 *)* 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.b3 Nc6 22.Rd2 Sveshnikov Variation:

Chelyab-Chelyabinsk Variation Main, L]

14.h4 h5!? A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

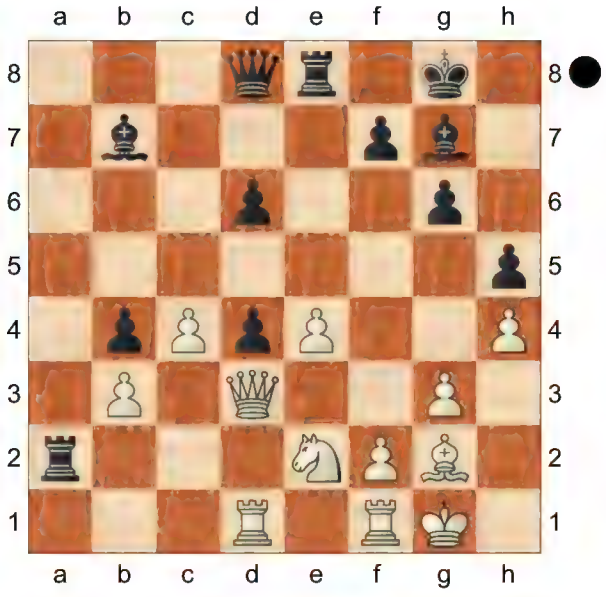
15.Bh3 White has an edge. **15...Bb7 16.Qd3N Bg7 17.Rd1 Nd4**

[17...0-0 18.0-0 Rb8 19.b3 Re8 20.Rfe1 Ba8 21.Nde3 Bf8 22.Nd5 Bg7 23.Nde3 Bf8 24.Nd5 aiming for Bd7! Bg7]

18.Nxd4 exd4 19.0-0 0-0 20.Nf4 Re8 21.Bg2 a4 22.b3 axb3 23.axb3 Ra2

Data server:: **24.Ne2** -0.76/13

[24.Rd2= 0.00/11 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Rxe4 27.Ra1]



24...d5!∓ 25.Nxd4 Qb1 would now be deadly.

[25.cxd5? perishes. Ba6 26.Nc1 Bxd3-+]

25...dxc4 26.bxc4 Ra3 -0.23/11 Against Qb3. Black has more active pieces.

[26...Qb6∓ -0.65/11 deserves consideration.]

27.Qd2!= Bxe4 A strong pair of Bishops.

[27...Qb6!?]

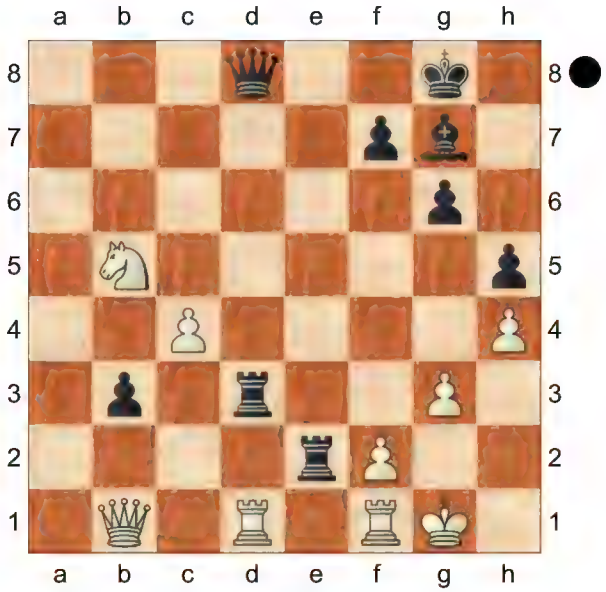
28.Nb5? -4.26/12 This costs White the game.

[28.Bxe4= -0.11/13 and White is okay. Rxe4 29.Qxb4 Rxg3+ *(29...Rxd4 30.Rxd4=)* 30.fxg3 Bxd4+ 31.Rxd4 Qxd4+ 32.Rf2]

28...Rd3-+ 29.Qc1 -5.94/7

[29.Qe2 -3.71/13 was worth a try. Bf5 30.Qf3]

29...Bxg2 30.Kxg2 1-0 (38) Huerga Leache,M (2450)-Vocaturo,D (2557) Atarrabia 2016 **30...Re2** Threatens to win with ...Qa8+. **31.Kg1 b3 32.Qb1**



Black is clearly winning. **32...Rxg3+ 33.fxg3 Qb6+ 34.Kh1 Qe6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/ Black=0.05 (flawless) .

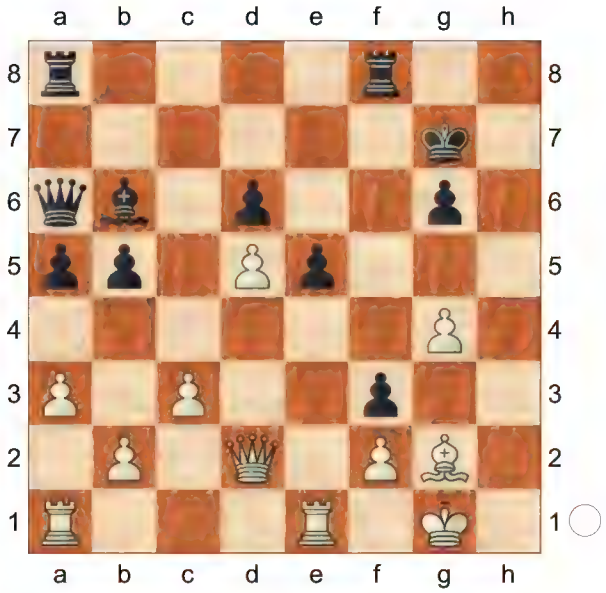
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=2
Black=1
Inaccurate: White=2
Black=1
OK: White=4
Black=8
Best: White=2
Black=3
Strong: White=1 ---
Brilliant: ---

Black=2
0-1

B33

□ **Frogkiller** **2638**
■ **Niksunstar** **2540**
Rated Blitz game 31.12.2021
[MH]

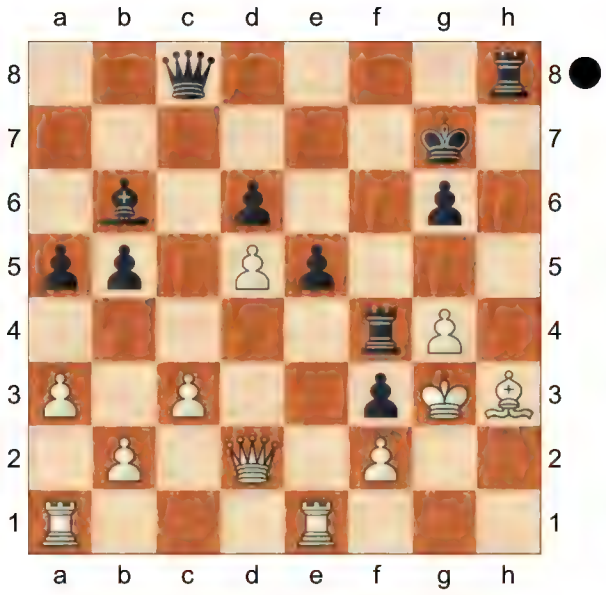
Blitz 3min B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Ne7 13.Ncb4
A dynamic duo of knights. **13...0-0 14.g3?!** -0.26/10 With that move, White wants to escape from the big theory but gives a chance for Black to equalize the position.
[14.h4± 0.41/7 Nxd5 15.Nxd5]
14...a5!= 15.Nxe7+! Qxe7 Black has an edge. **16.Nd5 Qb7∓ 17.Bg2** -0.60/19
[17.h4= -0.21/10 Bd8 18.Qd2]
17...Be6 18.0-0 Bxd5 19.exd5
The material is equal, but our bishop is more powerful than the opponent's bishop. The d5 pawn restricts the movement of the light-squared bishop of the opponent. **19...f5N** Black is more active.
[19...b4 20.c4 Qc8 21.Qe2 Qc5 22.Kh1 a4 23.Qg4 Be7 24.Qd7 Ra7 25.Qc6 Rc8 26.Qxc5 Rxc5
Chapter-Games Chapter 30 Game 1]
20.Qe2 g6 If we play for a win, we have to put our pawns on the color of the opponent's bishop. **21.h4 Bd8 22.h5** -1.67/17
[22.a4∓ -1.06/9]
22...Qa6 -0.41/11
[22...Bb6-+ -1.67/17 ...gxh5 would now be deadly. 23.a4 bxa4]
23.hxg6 -0.92/11
[23.a4!∓ -0.41/11]
23...hxg6∓ 24.Qd2 Kg7 Against Qh6+ **25.a3** -2.22/12 This move loses the game for White.
[25.Bf3∓ -0.89/11]
25...Bb6-+ One of the best diagonals for our dark-squared bishop in that variation in Sveshnikov defense. **26.Rfe1?** -4.43/10
[26.a4 -2.16/10 was necessary.]
26...f4 27.g4 White is weak on the dark squares ⌓**27...f3**



Strongly threatening ...Qc8! **28.Bf1 Rf4 29.Kh2 Rh8+** -11.77/21
[⌓29...Rxg4 -164.36/25 30.Qh6+ Kxh6]
30.Kg3 Qc8!? 31.Bh3

(Diagram)

Rxh3+! Remove Defender **32.Kxh3 Qxg4+** Normal.
Weighted Error Value: White=1.29/ Black=0.75.
Mistake: White=6
Black=1



Inaccurate: White=3
Black=1
OK: White=1
Black=5
Best: ---
Black=2
Strong: White=1 ---
0-1

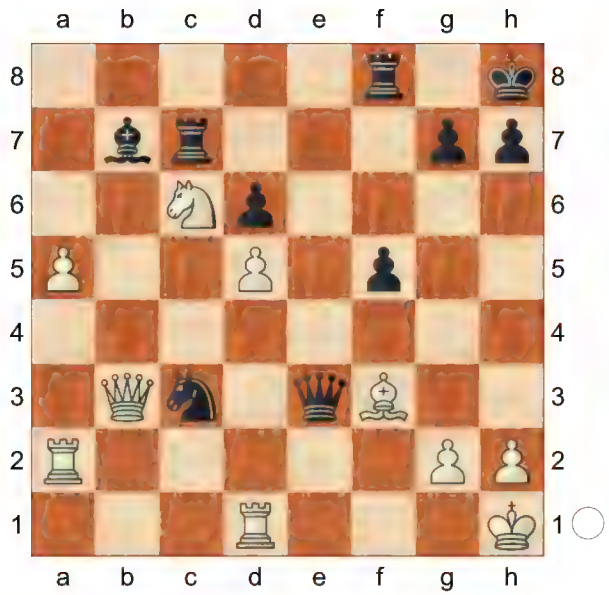
B33

□ **Sethuraman,S P** **2602**
■ **Yeletsky,Ivan** **2502**
Uralsk op (7) 26.07.2023
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.b4!?
A promising side line.
Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
[10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Na3 a5 14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Rc8 Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1]
10...a6N
[10...0-0 11.a5 f5 12.Be2 a6 13.Na3 Nd7 14.Nc4 f4 15.0-0 e4 16.Nd2 Bf6 17.Ra3 Qe7 18.Bg4 Ne5 19.Bxc8 Raxc8 20.Nxe4 f3 21.Re1 fxg2 22.Bf4 Rc4 23.Bg3 Rxb4 24.Rae3 Qc7 25.Qh5 Chapter Pelikan-7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 2023]
11.Na3 a5 White has an edge. **12.c3 0-0 13.Be2 Nd7 14.0-0 f5 15.Nc4 b6 16.f4 Qc7 17.Qb3N** Threatens to win with fxe5.
[Vorgänger: 17.Be3 exf4 18.Bxf4 Ba6 19.Na3 Hoping for Bxa6. Bxe2 20.Qxe2 Ne5! 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.Nb5 Qd7 23.d6 Bxd6 Gallagher,D (2218)-Gallana,M (2265) BCF-chT 2223 (4NCL) 2022 (5.5) ½-½]
17...Kh8 18.Na3 Bb7 19.Nb5 Qd8 20.Ra2 Rc8 21.Rd1 Qe8 22.Be3 White is more active. **22...Qg6 23.Na7 Rc7 24.Nc6 exf4 25.Nxe7 Qg5 26.Bxb6 Nxb6 27.bxa5 Nxa4** 1.65/14
[27...Qxe7± 0.72/19 28.Qxb6 Rxc3]
28.Nc6 f3 2.07/10
[28...Nc5± 1.34/18 was called for. 29.Qb6 Rcc8]
29.Bxf3+- Qe3+ 30.Kh1 Nxc3 4.33/21
[30...Nc5 2.10/20 31.Qb6 Rd7]

(Diagram)

31.Re2!! Pin. White is clearly winning.
31...Qxf3
[31...Qxe2 32.Bxe2]
32.gxf3 Nxe2 33.Qe3 Prevents Nf4.
33...h6 34.Qb6 Nc3 8.21/14
[⌓34...Rfc8 4.82/10 35.Qe3 Bxc6]



35.Qxc7 Nxd1 36.Qxd6 Re8 37.Ne5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.46.
Mistake: ---
Black=4
Inaccurate: White=4
Black=3
OK: White=5
Black=11
Best: White=5 ---
Brilliant: White=1 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2613**
■ **Banusz,T** **2619**
22nd European Teams (5.9) 28.10.2019
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7
[The other common retreat 8...Nb8 usually leads to quieter play.]
9.c4 Ng6 10.Qa4 Bd7 11.Qb4 Qb8 12.h4 h5 would now be deadly. **12...h5 13.g3** This restricting move is new to our site.
[13.Be3 a6! 14.Nc3 f5 is covered in Van Foreest,J (2612) -Carlsen,M (2835) Wijk aan Zee NED 2019 [Roiz, M], where Magnus managed to convincingly outplay his much lower-rated opponent. Still, this line doesn't look very comfortable for Black.]
13...Be7 This natural choice has a serious drawback - the Ng6 is left misplaced. White is slightly better.
[Therefore, it made sense to play 13...a6!? 14.Nc3 Ne7! For instance, 15.Bd3 Nf5! 16.a4 a5 17.Qb3 Be7⇄ Complex double-edged play is ahead.]
14.Be3 0.16/11
[Deserving of serious attention is 14.Be2!? e4 *(14...Bg4?!* 1.23/10 14...e4 0.52 *15.Bxg4 hxg4* , as in Schwarhofer,C - Wiedermann, D Austria 2007 should be met by *16.c5! dxc5 17.Qxg4 a6 18.Nc3* White's position is close to winning from a positional point of view.*;* inferior seems also *14...a6 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Bxh5 b5 17.cxb5 Bd8 18.a4 axb5 19.a5* claiming adequate compensation for a pawn is gonna be a tough task. *)* 15.Bg5 a6 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Nd4]
[14.Be2± 0.55/13 might be stronger.]
14...a6 15.Nc3 a5? 0.68/24 A novelty. This anti-positional move is the main cause of Black's defeat. A similar risky decision was made by Magnus in his game vs Fabiano Caruana, that can be found in the Archives.
[GM Banusz had no reason to reject the natural 15...0-0 16.Na4 *(*After *16.Be2 b5! 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxh5*

Bd8 19.0-0 Ne7⇄ White's setup on the k-side is exposed, so ...f7-f5 would offer Black decent counter-chances. *20.Bg5 Ba5 21.Qb3 Nf5 22.Ne2 Bb6 23.Rac1 Ra4 24.Rc6 Bxc6 25.dxc6 Rc4 26.a4 Nd4 27.Nxd4 Bxd4 28.axb5 d5 29.Rc1 Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Qb6 31.Be3 Bxe3 32.fxe3 Rd8 33.Kg2 g6 34.Be2 Kg7* 10.Ba3 b6 11.ba5 Nh5 (2758)-Molina,R (2855) 109/(48) Russia 2010 (5) 1-0 *)* 16...b5 17.Nb6 bxc4 Hoping for ...Bd8. 18.Qd2 Ra7 19.Be2 c3 20.Qxc3 Bb5 Black has decent compensation for a pawn due to the better coordination between his pieces and his excellent attacking prospects on the k-side.]

[Worth attention is also 15...b5!? , as tested in a correspondence game: 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Bxb5 0-0 18.a4 f5⇄ Geiser,A - Sidelnikov,O ICCF email 2011]

[15...0-0= 0.22/14 was preferrable.]

16.Qb3± White is more active.

[Another decent possibility was 16.Qa3!? 0-0 17.Be2 e4 18.Bd4↑ , keeping in mind the option of 0-0-0.]

16...a4 17.Qd1 Black's pawn structure is poor, while most of his pieces are passive - all this makes his situation difficult. **17...Qc8**

[Once again, it was vital to take care of the poor Ng6: 17...Bd8!? 18.Rc1 0.29/18 *(*White should play *18.Bd3±* 0.73/19 *)* 18...Ne7!= 19.c5 Ba5 20.Bg2 Bb5! 21.Bd2 Bxc3 22.Rxc3 Qc7± White is better, but the vulnerable location of the Ke1 offers Black some counterplay.]

18.Rc1N Black is now going downhill.

18...0-0?! Another step in the wrong direction.

[It was better to swap the bishop at once: 18...Bg4 19.Be2 Bxe2 20.Qxe2 f5 *(20...Qf5 21.c5 0-0 22.c6 bxc6 23.dxc6 Rfc8 24.Qc4 Bd8 25.Nd5 e4 26.c7 Bxc7 27.Nxc7 Ne5 28.Nd5 Kh7* Chapter-Games Chapter 16 Game 7 *)* 21.Nb5 Qd7! 22.Bd2 Kf7±]

19.Be2 Now the Ph5 is in big danger.

[19.Qxh5? Bg4-+]

19...Bg4? 1.65/9 This move leads to a strategically hopeless endgame.

[Both after 19...Re8 20.0-0! Bg4 21.Bxg4 hxg4 1.31/18 *(*Black should try *21...Qxg4* 0.73/22 *22.Qxg4 hxg4)* 22.c5±]

[and 19...f5 20.Bxh5 Nh8 21.Be2 Nf7 22.Qd2± Black's counterplay would also be limited, but it would be the lesser evil.]

[19...Rd8± 0.91/16]

20.Bxg4!+-

[20.Nxa4 Bxe2 21.Kxe2 Qg4+ 22.f3 Qxg3∓]

20...Qxg4

[Or 20...hxg4 21.h5 Nh8 22.Nxa4 Black must now prevent Nb6. Qf5 23.Nc3+- White is a pawn up, while the Nh8 is out of play. Prevents Qe4.]

21.Qxg4

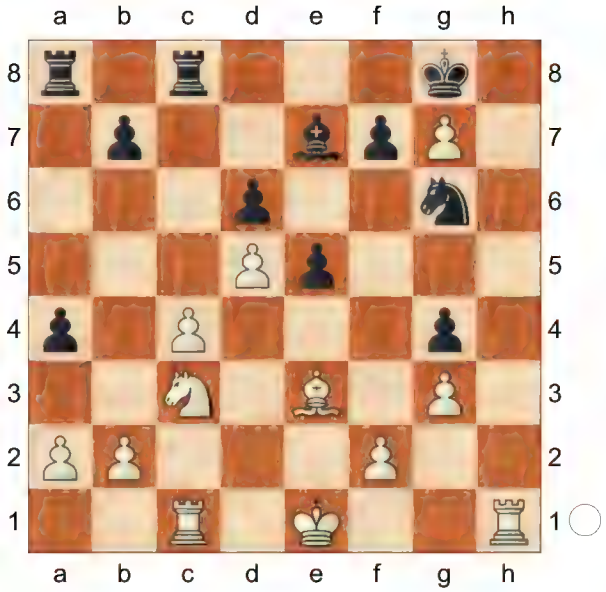
[21.Nxa4? perishes. Qxd1+ 22.Kxd1 Rxa4-+]

21...hxg4 22.h5 Nh8 23.h6! This is the most convincing. Now Black has trouble on both sides of the board.

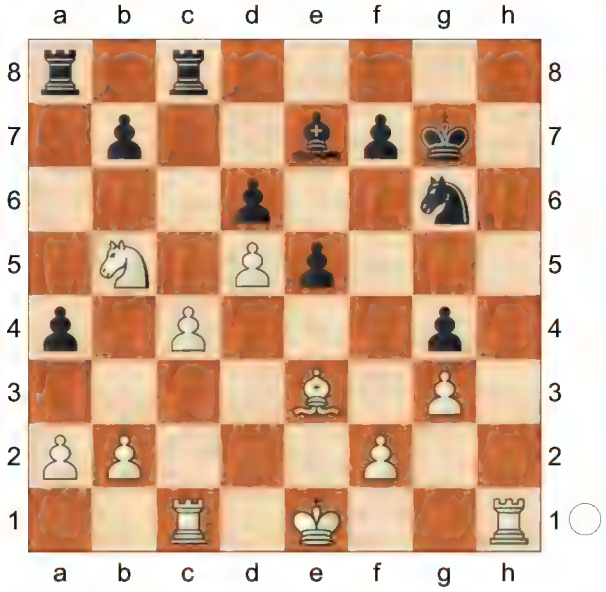
23...Ng6

[Equally bad was 23...g5 2.33/19 23...Rfc8 1.65 24.Ne4! Threatens to win with c5! f6 2.93/18 *(⌓24...f5* 2.07/22 *)* 25.c5+- Nf7 26.cxd6! Nxd6 27.Bc5! Rad8 28.h7+ Kh8 29.Bxd6 Bxd6 30.Ke2!+- the d-passer easily decides the game.]

24.hxg7 Rfc8



25.Nb5! Kxg7



26.Bh6+! Kg8 27.Rh5! Separating the Pg4. Black is completely helpless now.
27...f6 2.95/23
[Or 27...e4 2.37/24 27...Ra6 1.58 28.Ke2 Ne5 29.Be3 Nxc4 3.86/21 *(⌓29...f6* 2.69/21 *30.Bf4 Rxc4)* 30.Na7+-]
[⌓27...Ra6 1.76/18 28.Be3 Bf6]
28.Ke2 Kf7 29.Kd3 Black's pieces are so passive, that White's king would be very safe in the centre. **29...Ke8** 4.16/11
[⌓29...Rd8 2.72/13 30.Kc3 Rh8]
30.Ke4 White is winning. **30...Kd7**
31.Be3
[31.Kf5 Rg8 32.Ke4 *(32.Kxg4?* loses. *Nf4+-+)* 32...Bd8+-]
31...Rg8 32.Rh7 White is dominating. The next few moves were unnecessary. Dodges Rg7 **32...Nf8 33.Rh6 Rc8 34.Kf5 Re8 35.Nc3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise) .
Mistake: White=1 Black=4
OK: White=15 Black=8
Best: White=2 ---
Strong: White=3 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Tari,Aryan** **2613**
■ **Kasimdzhanov,Rustam** **2663**
Spring A Saint Louis USA (9.1) 10.03.19
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Rb8 For some reason this prophylactic move is by far the most common at the top level nowadays.
12.Nc2 Bg5 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4
[The rare 14.Nce3 deserves some attention, but in the following top-level game Black managed to show its drawbacks: 0-0 15.Qxa4 Bxe3 16.Nxe3 Ne7! 17.0-0-0 Bb7 18.Bd3 Bc6 19.Qa3 Qc7 20.Rd2 d5!
A thematic pawn sacrifice that enables Black to develop some activity on the

q-side. 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Nxd5 0.57/9 *(22.Nf5*= 0.14/16 is superior. *)* 22...Bxd5± 23.Bxh7+! Kxh7 24.Rxd5 Qc4! Black had full compensation for a pawn in Dominguez Perez,L - Gelfand,B Baku 2014. Prevents Qa4.]

14...Nxb4 15.cxb4

[15.Nxb4 Bd7 Wards off Nc6 16.Bxa6 Qa5 17.Qxd6 Rb6 18.Qd3 Be7 19.Nd5! Threatens to win with b4. Rxb2 20.0-0 Qg3! is the strong threat. Qc5 was proved to be safe for Black in many games.]

15...0-0 White has an edge. **16.Rxa4 a5 17.h4** The most ambitious. This committal advance is aimed at restricting the opponent's dark-squared bishop.

[17.b5 Bd7 18.Nc3 d5! was known to be good for Black since Dominguez Perez,L (2755)-Grischuk,A (2789) Bilbao ESP 2014 [Roiz, M]. Repels Bc4]

17...Bh6 18.b5 Bd7 19.Nc3 The knight comes back in order to cover b5 and unlock the d-file.

[White achieves nothing special with 19.Qb3 Kh8 20.Be2 Be6 21.g3 f5 Black had excellent attacking prospects on the k-side in Kriebel,T - Sebenik,M Zillertal 2015]

19...d5! Undoubtedly, all this was analyzed by both players. Against Bc4

20.exd5 e4 0.87/12

[20...Kh8 21.Be2 f5 22.g3 Qb6 23.0-0 Rbd8 24.Kg2 Bc8 25.f4 Rfe8 26.fxe5 Rxe5 27.Qd4 Qf6 Anand,V (2804)-Grischuk,A (2781) 125/(46) Stavanger 2015]

21.Be2 0.34/14

[21.Rxe4± 0.87/12 f5 22.Rd4]

21...e3N This move was mentioned in my notes to Ganguly - Shirov 3 years ago. However, at that time I'd underestimated Black's dynamic resources.

[21...f5 22.d6 Kh8 23.g3 yielded White a nice victory in Ganguly,S (2654)-Shirov,A (2682) Edmonton CAN 2016 [Roiz,M]. Repels Bf4 Qb6 *(23...f4 24.Rxe4 Bf5 25.Re5 Qf6 26.Qd5 fxg3 27.fxg3 Qg6 28.g4 Bc8 29.Ne4 Bb7 30.h5 Qxe4 31.Qxe4 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Rfd8 33.Rd4 Bc1 34.d7 Bxb2 35.Rd5 Rb7 36.0-0 g6 37.h6 Ba3 38.Rf7* Chapter-Games Chapter 5 (2) *)* 24.Qd4 Bc1 25.Qxb6 Rxb6]

22.f4 This most natural move is a novelty. Now it would take some time to unlock the poor Bh6.

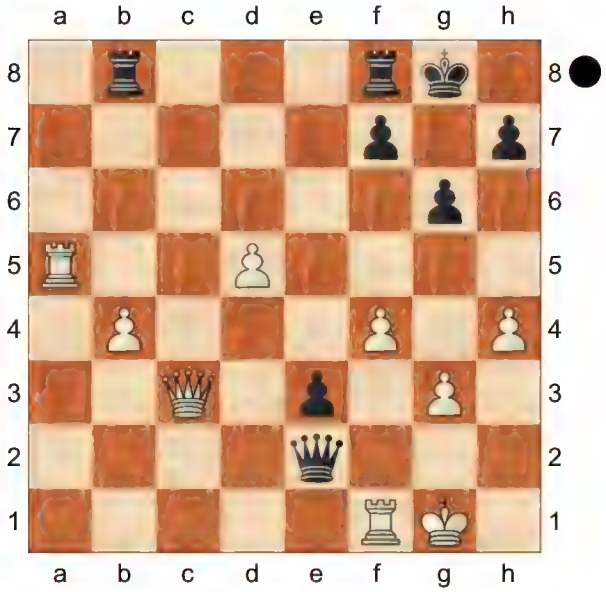
[Less logical seems 22.f3 -0.05/14 22.f4 0.35 , as played in one preceding game, where Black soon gained the upper hand: Re8 23.Qd4?! -0.52/9 *(*White should try *23.g3*= 0.16/11 *)* 23...g6 O`Gorman,T - Brilej,J Mureck 2016]

22...g6 23.g3 -0.14/15 GM Tari is trying to consolidate without making committal moves, but this looks too passive.

[Without a doubt White's only real chance to play for a win is connected to 23.h5! Bg7 24.h6! Bh8 25.0-0 , even though the Ph6 might fall in the long run. This interesting position should be tested in practice. Then play might continue: Re8 *(*Previously, I've only mentioned *25...Bf5?!* , and then after *26.Rc4!* White is firmly in control. *)* 26.Qe1 Bf5 27.Qg3 Qd6 The powerful bishops and the e3-passer offer Black adequate compensation for a pawn.]

[Better is 23.h5!± 0.53/9]

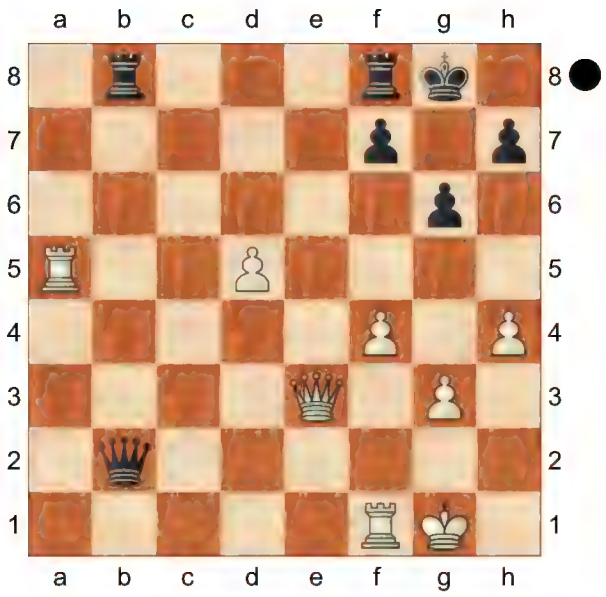
23...Bg7=
[23...Qb6 24.Qd4 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 Bg7 26.Re4 Bxc3+ 27.bxc3 Strongly threatening c4. Bxb5 could have led to major simplifications. Rustam's choice is somewhat more ambitious.]
24.Qb3 Qe8!? A tricky move. Rustam invites White to grab the Pa5, so Black's queen would gain access to e4. aiming for ...Bxc3+.
[The more natural continuation was 24...Qb6 25.0-0
A) Black can also maintain the tension by means of 25...Rfe8!? 26.Rfa1 Ra8 , though White's position isn't worse here. *(26...Bg4!? 27.Qc2 Bxc3 28.bxc3 Qc5=)*;
B) 25...Rfc8 , and then a draw is the most probable result. For instance, 26.Rfa1 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Bxb5 28.Qxb5 Qxb5 29.Bxb5 Rxb5 30.c4 Rb4 31.Rxb4 axb4=]
25.0-0?! Now GM Kasimdzhanov's decision is fully justified - White starts to struggle for a draw.
[Correct was 25.Rxa5! Bxc3+ 26.bxc3 Qe4 Wards off c4 27.0-0 c4 would now be deadly. Bh3 28.Rf3 Black must now prevent c4. Bg4 29.Ra4 Qe7 30.Kg2 The strong q-side passers make White's position rather safe.]
25...Bxc3 Remove Defender **26.Qxc3 Bxb5 27.Bxb5 Qxb5** All the heavy pieces are on the board, so White's king feels very exposed.
[Don't play 27...Rxb5 28.Rxa5 Rxa5 29.Qxa5±]
28.Rxa5 Qe2 29.Qe1? -2.02/9
Alas, Aryan cracks under pressure and loses on the spot. Now White is beyond hope.
[Alternatively, had he played 29.b4 -0.76/14 29.Qe1 -0.31



Rfc8! 30.Qe1 Qd3 31.Ra2! Rc3 32.d6 Qd4 -0.74/9 *(32...h6*= -0.19/14 *)* 33.Re2 White should be able to neutralize the activity of his opponent's pieces and achieve a draw.]
[29.b4= -0.30/11]
29...Qxb2→ And now ...e2 would win. White is in trouble. **30.Qxe3**
[The most stubborn was 30.Qa1 Qd2 31.Ra2 Dodges Rb2 Qxd5 32.Re2 Rb3 , but then Black should still be able to convert his extra pawn into a full point.]

(Diagram)

30...Rfe8! 31.Qa3 Qd2 Of course, there is no need to exchange queens. Now White is helpless. (-> ...Re2)
32.Rf2 Rb1+ Black mates. **33.Kg2 Qe1 34.Kf3 Qd1+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/ Black=0.04 (flawless) .



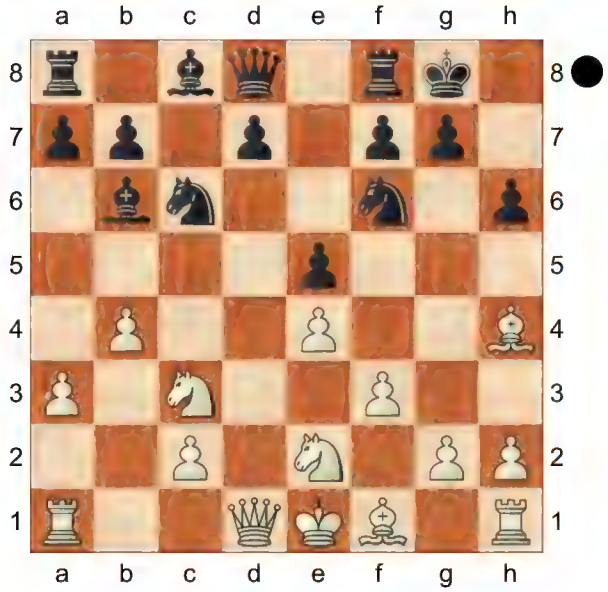
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=2
Black=1
Inaccurate: White=3 ---
OK: White=9
Black=8
Best: ---
Black=3
Strong: ---
Black=1
0-1

B33

□ **Bjerre,Jonas Buhl** **2546**
■ **Ter Sahakyan,S** **2643**
Chess Open 2021 (5.3) 05.07.2021
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nde2 This rare move can be seen in GM practice from time to time. **6...Bb4 7.a3 Ba5 8.b4!?** This natural move is new for our PGN Archive. It looks like GM Bjerre was well prepared!

[In case of 8.Bg5 White should be ready for a pawn sacrifice: h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Bg3 Nxe4 Andreikin,D (2726)-Zhigalko,S (2572) lichess.org INT 2020 [Roiz,M]]
8...Bb6 9.Qd6! A decent novelty. By making this move White paralyses the opponent's q-side pieces for a while. The position is equal.
[The following alternatives were tried in practice, but none of them seem to pose Black any problems: 9.Ng3 , as in Topel,H-Akyuz,A Izmir 2002 can be energetically met by d5! 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 *(11.exd5 Bd4* Prevents Bb2. *12.Rb1* Bb2 would now be deadly. *Qxd5∓)* 11...Qf6 with excellent play for a pawn.]
[9.f3 Rodriguez Vila,A - Castillo,D Cali 2001 0-0 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6! *(*Of course, not *11.Bh4?* -2.47/20 11.Bxf6 -0.15



Nxe4!-+) 11...Qxf6 12.Nd5 Inhibits Ne7. Qd8 His control of the dark squares offers Black comfortable equality.]
[9.Bg5? -1.27/20 9.Qd6 0.16 is just

bad in view of Bxf2+! 10.Kxf2 Ng4+ 11.Ke1 Qxg5-+]

9...Bc7N GM Ter Sahakyan reasonably decides to chase the queen.

[Another logical continuation was 9...Qe7!? 10.Qxe7+ Nxe7 11.Bg5 d6 12.Rd1 Be6 13.Rxd6 0-0⩲ Black's better development offers him decent play for a pawn.]

[9...h6 10.Be3 Bc7 11.Qd2 d6 12.Ng3 Be6 13.Be2 d5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Qxd5 16.Qxd5 Bxd5 17.f3 Be6 18.Ne4 0-0-0 19.Bd3 b6 20.0-0-0 a5 21.c3 f5 22.Ba6+ Kb8 23.Nd2 axb4 24.axb4 Lesson-Sveshnikov Rare Th Moves 2023]

10.Qd3 d6 This allows a nasty pin, but Black can hardly lose another tempo.

[Indeed, after 10...h6 11.Nd5 0-0 12.Nec3 Nxd5 13.Nxd5± White has a stable plus.]

11.Bg5 White wants to play Nd5. **11...h6 12.Bxf6** As in most lines of the Sveshnikov, White is happy to exchange the main defender of the d5-spot.

12...Qxf6 13.Nd5 Prevents Bb6

13...Qd8 14.Nec3

[Deserving of serious attention is 14.Ng3!? Bb6 15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.exf5 White has a nice position, though after Ne7! I am not sure if Black should face serious problems.]

14...Bb8 0.44/16 In his attempt to keep his bishops the Armenian GM takes a definite risk.

[More to the point was 14...0-0 15.Nxc7 Qxc7 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.Be2 Be6=]

[14...0-0= 0.00/11 might be stronger.]

15.Qg3 0.01/9 Now Black's last move is justified.

[Stronger was 15.Be2! 0.15/17 15.g3 0.53 0-0 16.0-0 a6 17.b5 axb5 18.Nxb5± Most of Black's pieces are located on the back rank, so I definitely prefer White's chances.]

[15.g3± 0.44/16]

15...0-0!= 16.Bc4 a6 17.0-0 Ba7 18.Rad1 Be6 Both sides have completed their development, and the position is now about equal. White's superior pawn structure is compensated by Black's strong unopposed bishop.

19.Ne2 This is aimed at preventing Black from hosting his knight in the centre.

19...Rc8 20.Qd3 Now it's obvious that Qd3-g3 was a pointless manoeuvre.

20...Kh8 A standard prophylactic move. Black is getting ready for a possible...f7-f5 break. **21.c3 Qd7** Covering the Be6 and connecting the rooks. **22.Bb3?!** A careless retreat, that could have invited some trouble.

[More active was 22.a4 f5 23.Ng3 Hoping for Nxf5. f4 24.Nf5! , and then the tempting Rxf5 25.exf5 Bxf5 26.Qe2 Strongly threatening Bd3. Bg4 27.Qe4 doesn't yield Black more than equality.]

22...f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Qd2 Bg6?! 0.19/12 Black immediately returns the favor.

[Had he played 24...e4! 25.Ne3 Ne5 26.Nd4 Bg4 27.Nxg4 Qxg4 White's king would be under definite pressure.]

[24...e4∓ -0.40/26]

25.Ng3 Ne7 26.Kh1! It is important to unpin the Pf2. **26...Nxd5?** 0.53/11 This faulty decision makes it possible for White to take control of the light squares in the centre.

[Correct was 26...Nf5! 27.Nxf5 Bxf5 28.f3 e4!=]

[26...Nf5!= 0.00/11]

27.Bxd5± Rf4 This is only a visual activity. There are no weaknesses in White's camp now. **28.f3 Qe7 29.h3** 0.63/12

[Simpler was 29.Be4! Bxe4 30.Nxe4 with a huge positional advantage.]

[White should play 29.Be4± 1.05/13 Rh4 30.h3 *(30.Bxg6?* leads to mate. *Rxh2+* Decoy, Clearance *31.Kxh2 Qh4#)* 30...Bxe4 31.Nxe4]

29...Rd8 30.Kh2 b5 Luckily for GM Ter Sahakyan his lower-rated opponent didn't mind calling it a day as White could have played on without risk - Black is doomed to passive defence.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise) .

Mistake:	White=2	
Black=3		
Inaccurate:	White=1	
Black=3		
OK:	White=9	
Black=12		
Best:	White=2	---
Strong:	---	
Black=1		

½-½

B33

□ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter 2667**

■ **Nihal,Sarin 2598**

25th Sigeman & Co 2019_9679 (2.3)

[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

RR: 'Inf 98/(93)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5**

[12...0-0 is somewhat more popular, but usually leads to the same positions after 13.g3 Be6 14.Bg2 a5]

13.g3 0-0 14.Bg2 Be6 15.0-0

[Harmless is 15.h4 g6 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.b3 a4 Black had plenty of counterplay on the q-side in Morozevich,A (2788) -Shirov,A (2741) Tal Memorial, Moscow 2008 [Richard Palliser]]

15...Rc8

[Another important theoretical position might arise after 15...Bg5 16.f4 Bh6 It was recently covered in Le,Q (2715)-Tari,A (2613) Saint Louis USA 2019 [Roiz,M]]

16.Nxf6+N A new move for our site. GM Nisipeanu deviates from his preceding encounter,

[that saw 16.Qd3 g6?! *(*Undoubtedly, Sarin would have improved it with something like *16...Bxd5!? 17.cxd5 Nb8* , and Black's knight is in time to reach c5. For instance, *18.a3 bxa3 19.Nxa3 Nd7*= Mester,A - Darazs,Z Budapest 2007 *)* 17.Nxf6+! Qxf6 18.b3 Qe7 19.Rad1 White was clearly better and eventually won in Nisipeanu,L - Radjabov,T Medias 2010 [Richard Palliser]]

[Not much is offered by 16.b3 Bxd5

A) 17.exd5 Nb8 18.a3 bxa3 19.Nxa3 -0.42/23 *(19.Bh3*= 0.03/24 is more appropriate. *Nd7 20.Rxa3)* 19...Na6∓ 20.Nb5 Qb6 was comfortable for Black in Bae,T - Stojanovski,S Malmo 2012. Prevents Na7;

B) 17.Qxd5 Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.Qh5 Qb6 20.Qf3 Rfe8 21.Kh1 Re7 22.Qd3 Ra7 Black had enough counterplay along the a-file in Szczepkowska,K - Toma,K

Krakow 2008]

16...Qxf6 17.b3 Qe7 18.Re1

A novelty. White is intending to triple his heavy pieces on the d-file.

[The only preceding game saw 18.Qd2 Kh8 This is too slow. A similar loss of tempo took place in the game. *(18...Ra8* was more to the point, and then after *19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.Rfe1 a4 21.Nxb4 Nd4* Black is OK. *)* 19.Rad1 *(19.Rfe1!* was more precise, and then Black is under pressure. *)* 19...Rfd8 20.Kh1 Qd7?! *(*After *20...f6 21.f4 Ra8 22.f5 Bf7 23.g4 a4* Black would have obtained decent counter-attacking prospects, while *24.Nxb4 Nxb4 25.Qxb4 Rdb8 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 axb3 28.axb3 Rxb3* makes a draw practically unavoidable. *)* 21.f4 Black was doomed to passive defence in Wittmann,W -Medvegy,N Budapest 2003]

18...Kh8?! This move is the main cause of Sarin's problems. Black chooses an anti-positional plan.

[He should have initiated some play on the q-side by means of 18...a4 19.Qd2 Qa7 , and White can hardly claim any advantage. For instance, 20.Rad1 Bg4 21.Rb1 Rfd8 22.Nxb4 Qa5! 23.bxa4 Be6⇄]

19.Qd2 f5 This consistent continuation leads to an unfavorable change to the pawn structure.

[After 19...Ra8 20.Rad1 Rfd8 21.Re3 Qa7 22.Rd3 h6⩲ Black's position would remain passive, but rather solid.]

20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Bxc6

White reasonably decides to simplify matters.

[Equally good was 21.Ne3 Nd4 0.82/20 *(21...Bg6⩲* 0.42/22 *)* 22.Nxf5± Nxf5 23.Bh3 with more or less the same type of play.]

21...Rxc6 22.Nd4 Rcc8 23.Nxf5 Rxf5 24.Rad1 Black is left with a poor pawn structure. **24...Rf6 25.Qe3**

[Deserving of attention is also 25.Re2!? Rcf8 26.Qc2 Qa7 27.Rd5 , though White can hardly do better than in the game.]

25...Rcf8 26.Re2 Qc7 Prevents Qb6.

27.Rd5 Black's play along the f-file is neutralized, but his rooks are still active.

27...h6 28.c5 This gains White an extra pawn, but invites simplifications. White is more active.

[28.Red2 0.17/24 28.c5 0.79 Rf3 29.Qe1 R3f6 would have kept Black in a passive position, but it would be not easy to make further progress.]

28...Qc6! 29.Rxd6 Rxd6 30.cxd6 Qxd6 31.Qxe5⩲ Endgame. KQR-KQR

31...Qd1+ Of course, Black shouldn't accept the exchange. **32.Kg2**

[Interesting is 32.Re1!? Qc2 33.Qe2 , intending to meet Rc8 with 34.Qg4! Rd8 35.Re2±]

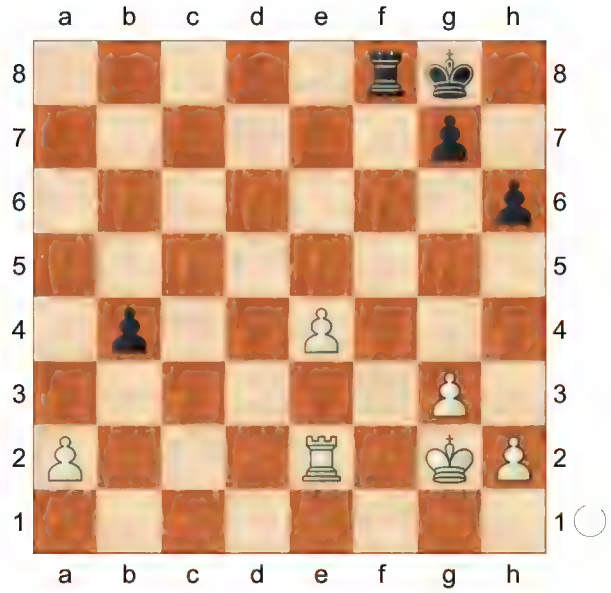
32...a4! Nihal manages to pose his experienced opponent major technical problems. **33.Qc5 Rb8 34.Qe5**

[In case of 34.Qc2!? Qxc2 2.09/13 *(34...Qd5+⩱* 0.79/21 keeps fighting. *35.Qe4 Qxe4+ 36.Rxe4 a3)* 35.Rxc2+- Threatens to win with Rc4. a3! 36.h4 Kg8 37.h5 Rd8 it would be not easy for White to avoid swapping all the q-side pawns. Still, this might be the best practical chance.]

34...Rf8 35.bxa4 0.17/6

[35.Qe7⩲ 0.65/13 feels stronger. Rb8 36.bxa4]

35...Qxa4= The position is equal.
36.Qd5?! This move makes Black's defensive task much easier.
[Stronger was 36.Qe4 Qa8 37.f3! , maintaining the tension, since Qxe4 1.04/11 *(37...Rb8*= 0.24/11 *)* 38.fxe4± Kg8



39.Rb2! Ra8 40.Kf3! Kf7 41.Ke3 looks dangerous for Black - the Pb4 should soon fall.]
36...Qa8! 37.Qxa8 Rxa8 KR-KR
38.Rb2
[38.Kf3 Ke4 is the strong threat. Ra3+! 39.Kg4 And now Rb2 would win. b3! 40.axb3 Rxb3 is a dead draw.]
38...Ra3 The rook is so active that White's king cannot proceed. **39.Kh3 Ra4 40.f4 Kh7 41.Kg4 Kg6**
Both kings are moving towards the centre. **42.Kf3 Kf5 43.g4+**
[43.Ke3 Kd3 would now be deadly. g5 44.fxg5 hxg5=]
43...Ke6 44.h4 g6! The last precise move. White fails to make any progress.
45.Re2+ Kf7 46.Rc2 Ra3+ 47.Ke4 b3
[Possible was also 47...Rh3 48.Rc7+ Kg8 49.Rc6 Kf7 50.f5 gxf5+ 51.Kxf5 Rxh4=]
48.Rc7+ Kg8 49.axb3 Rxb3 50.Ke5
[Or 50.h5 gxh5 51.gxh5 Rh3 52.Kf5 Black must now prevent Kg6. Rh4=]
50...Rb5+ 51.Kf6 Rb6+ 52.Ke7 Rb5 53.Rc6 Kg7 54.Ke6 Rb4 55.Rc7+ Kg8 56.f5

Hoping for Rc8+. **56...Re4+ 57.Kf6**
White threatens Rc8+ and mate.
57...Rxg4 58.Rg7+
[58.fxg6 Rf4+ 59.Ke5 Rxh4=]
58...Kf8 59.Rxg6
[59.Rc7!? Kg8□ 60.Rg7+ *(60.fxg6 Rf4+ 61.Ke5 Rxh4=)* 60...Kf8 61.Rxg6 Rxh4 62.Rg7=]
59...Rxh4 60.Rg1 Ra4 61.Kg6 Ra6+ 62.f6 Ra2
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=1 ---
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=20
Black=26
Best: ---
Black=4
Strong: ---

Black=1
½-½

B33

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2804**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2748**
Gashimov Memorial 3rd (8) 03.06.2016
[Bronznik,Valerij, MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Some people are born to fight. GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov belongs in this category, so the Sveshnikov is a perfect fit for his confrontational style." **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0** Of all three main continuations (the other two are 12...a5 and 12...♖b8) this is the most flexible - the a5-square still remains free, so that if circumstances permit Black can rapidly bring his queen to c5 via a5 whilst he can decide later where the a8-rook is best placed. Von allen drei Hauptfortsetzungen (die anderen zwei sind 12...a5 und 12...♖b8) ist es die flexibelste - das Feld a5 bleibt noch frei, somit kann Schwarz unter Umständen seine Dame schnell über a5 nach c5 bringen, während der Turm a8 später entscheiden kann, wohin er am besten gehört.

[12...a5]

[12...Rb8]

13.h4!? 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The sophisticated idea of this move is to pre-empt Black's ...Bg5." With this move White prevents his opponent from activating his ♗f6 with ♗f6-g5, and prepares (of course in conjunction with g2-g3) the move ♗f1-h3 (although ♗f1-g2 is not excluded) and at the same time gains space on the kingside. Damit verbietet Weiß dem Gegner, den ♗f6 mittels ♗f6-g5 zu aktivieren, bereitet (natürlich in Zusammenhang mit g2-g3) den Zug ♗f1-h3 vor (obwohl auch ♗f1-g2 nicht ausgeschlossen ist) und gewinnt gleichzeitig Raum am Königsflügel.

[It has long been known that after Es ist seit langem bekannt, dass Schwarz nach 13.Ncxb4 Nxb4 14.Nxb4 Qb6 Black has absolutely no problems, e.g. überhaupt keine Probleme hat, z. B. 15.Nd5 *(15.Nd3? Qd4∓; 15.Qb3 Bd8! 16.Nd5 Qd4⩱)* 15...Qxb2 16.Bd3 Bd8 17.0-0 Be6 18.Qb3 Qxb3 19.axb3 Rb8 20.Rfb1 Bxd5 21.cxd5 a5 22.Ra4 Bb6= Anand,V (2798)-Radjabov,T (2744)/ Bilbao 2008]

[The most popular option is Die populärste Option ist 13.g3 - White does not yet define whether he will play h2-h4 and where he will post the ♗f1 - that could be either g2, or (after h2-h4) the h3-square.
- Weiß legt noch nicht fest, ob er h2-h4 spielen und wohin er den ♗f1 bringen wird - es kann sowohl g2, als auch (nach h2-h4) das Feld h3 sein.

A) In this case In diesem Fall würde 13...a5 14.h4 would lead by transposition of moves to the main game durch Zugumstellung zur Hauptpartie führen *(14.Bg2 Bg5 15.0-0* is considered rather harmless nowadays on account of gilt heutzutage wegen *Ne7* e.g. als ziemlich harmlos, z.B. *16.Nce3 Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Be6 18.Qd3 Qc7 19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.b3 a4 21.Rd2 Nc6 22.Rfd1 axb3 23.axb3* (Fabri,L (2330)-Domancich,E

(2305)/email 2013) *Ra5! 24.Nc2 Qa7*= Kotronias *)*;
B) Another possible move is möglich ist auch 13...Be6 after which Black is prepared, according to circumstances to exchange this bishop on d5, e.g. , wonach Schwarz bereit ist, unter Umständen diesen Läufer auf d5 abzutauschen, z. B. 14.Bg2 *(14.h4 a5* - 13.h4 a5 14.g3 ♗e6 *)* 14...Bg5 15.0-0 Qa5!? *(15...a5 16.Qd3 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Nb8 18.h4 Bh6 19.a3 Na6 20.axb4 Nxb4 21.Nxb4 axb4 22.Qc4* Hou,Y (2621) - Ushenina,A (2497)/EU-Cup (Women) Rhodes 2013 and Henriquez Villagra,C (2511) - Gelfand,B (2741)/FIDE World Cup Baku 2015; with some pressure for White. mit etwas Druck für Weiß. *)* 16.Qd3 Qc5 17.Kh1 *(17.a3 a5 18.axb4 Nxb4 19.Ncxb4 axb4 20.Qb3 Bxd5 21.cxd5 g6*= Chigaev,M (2519)-Shirov,A (2702)/ Riga 2015 *)* 17...Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Rab8= 19.Rad1?! *(19.b3)* 19...b3 20.axb3 Rxb3↑ Muzychuk,A (2549)-Fressinet,L (2702)/Cap d'Adge rapid 2015;
C) But in addition Black would also have the extra option aber außerdem würde Schwarz dann über die zusätzliche Option 13...Bg5 (it was not available to him during the game!), which often links well with the idea ♕d8-a5-c5, e.g. verfügen (in der Partie wurde sie ihm verwehrt!), die sich oft gut mit der Idee ♕d8-a5-c5 verbinden lässt, z.B.

C1) 14.h4 Bh6 15.Bh3 Be6 16.Kf1 Qa5 17.Kg2 Qc5 18.Qd3 *(18.b3 Ra7 19.Qd3 a5 20.Rad1 a4 21.g4 f6∞* Andriasian,Z (2585)-Timofeev,A (2681)/Belgorod 2010*)* 18...a5 19.Rhf1 Ra7 20.b3 Bxd5 *(20...a4!?* Palliser *)* 21.Qxd5 Rd8 22.Rfd1 Qb6 23.Qb5 Qc7 24.Qa4 g6 25.Rd3 Nd4 26.Nxd4 exd4 27.Qb5 Qc5 28.f4 Bg7= Popov,I (2605)-Caruana,F (2767)/Plovdiv 2012
C2) 14.Bg2 Qa5!? *(14...a5* - 13...a5 14.♗g2 ♗g5 *)* 15.0-0 Qc5 16.b3 *(16.Kh1 a5 17.f4 exf4 18.gxf4 Bh6∞* Shirov,A (2710)-Krasenkow,M (2607)/ Jurmala rapid 2012 *)* 16...a5 17.Kh1 a4⇄ Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedov,R (2657)/FIDE World Cup Baku 2015]

[A very frequently seen alternative is also Eine sehr verbreitete Alternative ist auch 13.Be2 - with the idea of continuing with 0-0, ♗e2-g4 or with 0-0, ♕d1-d3, ♖a(f)d1. Recently it has been seen less and less often at the very top level, which in my opinion can be explained by the fact that Black has found quite safe ways of showing that he has satisfactory counter-chances, e.g. - mit der Idee, weiter mit 0-0, ♗e2-g4 bzw. mit 0-0, ♕d1-d3, ♖a(f)d1 fortzusetzen. In der letzten Zeit wird sie auf hohem Niveau immer seltener gespielt, was sich m.E. damit erklären lässt, dass Schwarz dort ganz sichere Wege fand, Ausgleich bzw. ausreichende Gegenchancen nachzuweisen, z.B. a5 14.0-0 Bg5 15.Qd3 *(*after nach *15.Bg4 Bb7 16.Qd3* in his recent book on the Sveshnikov Variation GM Kotronias recommends empfiehlt GM Kotronias

in seinem aktuellen Buch über die Sveshnikov-Variante *16...Nb8* with the main line
mit dem Hauptabspiel *17.a3! Na6! 18.axb4 axb4 19.Ncxb4 Nxb4 20.Nxb4 Qb6 21.Nd5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Qxb2 24.Rd1 g6 25.g3 h5 26.Bd7 Be7=* , to which I cannot object. , wogegen ich nichts einzuwenden habe *)* 15...Be6 16.Rad1 *(16.a3 bxa3 17.Rxa3 Rb8 18.b3 Rb7* (Kotronias)*; 16.Rfd1 Rb8 17.b3 g6 18.Bf3 Kh8 19.Qe2 Qd7 20.Rd3 Nd8 21.a3 bxa3 22.Nxa3 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rxb3 24.Qd1 Rb4 25.Rxd6 Qc7=* Amonatov,F (2608)-Frolyanov,D (2587)/Izhevsk 2010*)* 16...Bxd5!? 17.exd5 *(17.cxd5 Nb8 18.Bg4 Na6=* Asrian,K (2635)-Ni,H (2607)/Taiyuan 2006*; 17.Qxd5 Qb6 18.b3 Rfd8 19.Qb5 Qc7 20.g3 Bf6=* Noble,M (2520)-Valenis,J (2501)/ email 2012 *)* 17...Nb8 18.c5 Na6 *(18...dxc5?! 19.d6⩲* appears to be rather risky for Black, which is confirmed by the results in this line scheint für Schwarz ziemlich riskant zu sein, was auch von seinen Ergebnissen in diesem Abspiel bestätigt wird *)* 19.c6 f5 20.Qh3 Nc5 21.Ne3 g6 22.Nc4 a4 23.g3 b3 24.a3 Ra7 25.Bd3 e4 26.Bb1 Re7∞ Wunderlich,H (2655) - Lafarga Santorroman,D (2643)/email 2012]

13...a5 Not just to overprotect the a5-pawn, but also intending, by means of a5-a4, to conquer more space on the queenside. Nicht nur um den Bauern a5 zu überdecken, sondern auch mit der Absicht, mittels a5-a4 weiteren Raum am Damenflügel zu erobern.

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Instead: -- a)' 13...Be6 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'doesn't alter much. White should again refrain from' 14.g3 *(14.Ncxb4? Nxb4 15.Nxb4 Qb6 16.a3 a5* , when Black has regained his sacrificed pawn with a big advantage. *)* 14...a5 leads to the game by transposition of moves.
führt durch Zugumstellung zur Partie.]
[b) 13...Bxh4?? loses on the spot to 14.Qh5 .]

14.g3 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Logically covering h4, while preparing to fianchetto." **14...Be6**

[An option worth considering is
Eine beachtenswerte Option ist 14...a4 , e.g. , z.B.
A) 15.Ndxb4?! Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Qb6 17.a3 Bd8 18.Bd3 Qb7 19.0-0 Bb6 Sikula,V (2520) - Konnyu,J (2375)/Hungary 2010; with very good compensation.
mit sehr guter Kompensation.;
B) 15.Qd2 Be6 16.Nce3 *(16.Ncxb4 Nd4⩱; 16.Ndxb4 Qb6 17.a3 Na5 18.Rd1 Qb7 19.Ne3 Nb3 20.Qc3 Nd4 21.Bd3 Bd8⩲* Iordachescu,V (2583) - Yu,Y (2721)/ FIDE World Cup Baku 2015 *22.0-0 Bh3)* 16...Qa5!? 17.Nxf6+ gxf6∞ Oparin,G (2564) - Fier,A (2636)/ Linares 2015;
C) 15.Bh3 Be6 - 14...♗e6 16.♗h3 a4!?;
D) 15.Bg2 Be6 16.0-0 b3 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' 17.axb3 axb3 18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Ne3 Nd4 21.f4
Cyrus Lakdawala: 'was L. Dominguez Perez-B.Gelfand, World Team Championship, Tsaghkadzor 2015. Black's chances are no worse after' Qc6 *(21...Qa6 .)* 22.Kh2 Nc2! 23.Nxc2 bxc2 24.Qxc2 Qxc4 25.Qd2 Qd4

26.Qxd4 exd4 27.Rd1 Rb8 28.Rxd4 Rxb2 29.f5 Ba2 30.Rxd6 Bc4 31.Kg1 Rb1+ 32.Kf2 Rb2+ 33.Kf3 Kg7 Dominguez Perez,L (2729) - Gelfand,B (2747)/ Tsaghkadzor 2015, , and despite being a pawn down Black had no problems holding the draw.
und trotz seines Minusbauern hatte Schwarz keine Schwierigkeiten, Remis zu halten.]

15.Bh3 This is the most active post for the bishop: in several variations ♗h3-f5 or ♗h3xe6 is now an option; in addition, in the event of ♗e6xd5 it would deprive the opposing major pieces of the c8- and d7-squares. Hier steht der Läufer am aktivsten: in mehreren Varianten kommt nun ♗h3-f5 oder ♗h3xe6 in Frage, außerdem würde er im Falle ♗e6xd5 den gegnerischen Schwerfiguren die Felder c8 und d7 nehmen.

[The main alternative is
Die Hauptalternative ist 15.Bg2
- here the bishop controls the e4- and d5-squares; on the other hand it is not so active there as on h3. After this Black has several possibilities available to him, e.g.: - hier kontrolliert der Läufer die Felder e4 und d5, andererseits ist er da nicht so aktiv, als auf h3. Danach verfügt Schwarz über mehrere Möglichkeiten, z. B.:

A) 15...Bxd5 16.cxd5 Nb8 17.Ne3 Na6 18.Rc1 Rc8 19.Nc4 Nc5 20.0-0 Re8 21.Qe2 Be7 22.Bh3 Ra8 23.Nd2 a4 24.Rc4 Qb6 25.Rfc1 Ra5 26.Kg2 Bf8 27.Nf3 Qb5 28.Qd2 b3 29.a3 Ra7 30.Ne1 g6 31.h5± Svetushkin,D (2621) - Illescas Cordoba,M (2609)/ Melilla 2011;

B) 15...g6 16.Nxf6+ *(16.Qd3 h5!? 17.0-0 Bg7 18.b3 Rb8 19.Rfd1 Qd7 20.Rd2 a4 21.Qf3 Qd8 22.Qe2 Qa5 23.Rad1 Rfd8=* Hansen,O (2488) - Larsen,L (2451)/ email 2012*; 16.h5?! Bg5 17.Qd3 a4 18.hxg6 fxg6! 19.0-0 Ra7 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Bh6↑* Lundberg,G (2287) - Colin,S (2293)/ email 2009 *)* 16...Qxf6 17.b3 a4 18.0-0 Qd8!? *(*I prefer this idea of Palliser's, whereas after diese Idee von Palliser gefällt mir am besten, während nach *18...axb3 19.axb3 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 Qd8 21.Rd1* Morozevich,A (2788) - Shirov,A (2741)(Moscow 2008, White's advantage was an academic one Weiß über einen akademischen Vorteil verfügte *)* 19.h5 Qb6 20.h6 Qc5 21.Qf3 f6 (Palliser) - Black has not only a solid position, but also opportunities for counterplay on the queenside and is certainly not worse.
(Palliser) - Schwarz hat nicht nur eine feste Position, sondern auch Gegenspielmöglichkeiten am Damenflügel und steht bestimmt nicht schlechter;

C) 15...Rb8 16.0-0 Be7 *(16...b3!? 17.Nce3 Nd4 18.axb3 Nxb3 19.Ra3 Nd4=* Jensen,K (2181) - Kosic,B (2356)/email 2013*)* 17.Qd3 Qd7 18.Rad1 Bd8 19.b3 Qa7∞ Kantans,T (2496) - Zhigalko,S (2647)/Jurmala rapid 2016

D) 15...Nd4!? 16.Nxd4 *(16.0-0 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Rc8⇄* Palliser*; 16.Nce3 g6!?∞)* 16...Bxd5 17.cxd5 exd4 18.0-0 Rc8 19.Qd2 d3 20.Rac1 Qb6 21.Rc6 Rxc6 22.dxc6 Be5 23.Qxd3 Qxc6 24.b3 Rc8 25.f4 Bf6 26.Rd1 Be7

27.Kh2 Qc2= Gao,R (2533) - Xiu,D (2557)/China 2015

E) 15...a4 - 14...a4 15.♗g2 ♗e6]

15...Rb8

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Another option is' The main continuation here is Die Haupfortsetzung ist hier 15...a4 It would be all the more interesting to know what Caruana would play against it, as (so far as I know) White's achievements in this position have been really modest, e.g.: Es wäre desto interessanter zu erfahren, was Caruana dagegen spielen würde, als es (soviel ich weiß) die weißen bisherigen Errungenschaften in dieser Stellung recht bescheiden sind, z. B.:

A) 16.Bxe6?! fxe6 17.Ndxb4 Nxb4 18.Nxb4 Qb6 19.Qd2 Be7 20.a3 Rf3 21.c5 *(* in Nisipeanu, L.-D. (2684) - Shirov,A (2740) /Foros 2008 and Kislik,E (2357) - Antal,G (2526)/Budapest 2010 White decided on in den Partien Nisipeanu, L.-D. (2684) - Shirov,A (2740) /Foros 2008 und Kislik,E (2357) - Antal,G (2526)/Budapest 2010 entschied sich Weiß für *21.Rf1?* , after which , worauf *Rc8!* would be very strong, e.g. sehr stark wäre, z. B. *22.Rc1 Qb7 23.Qe2 Rb3∓)* 21...Qxc5 22.Rc1 Rxf2 23.Rxc5 Rxd2 24.Kxd2 dxc5 25.Nd3 - my database contains five games with this position, and in all of them White managed to get a draw, but he can hardly call that a success for the opening - meine Datenbank zählt fünf Partien mit dieser Stellung, und in allen ist es dem Anziehenden gelungen, Remis zu erreichen, aber als einen Eröffnungserfolg darf er das eher nicht betrachten;

B) 16.Ncxb4?! Nxb4 17.Bxe6 *(17.Nxb4? Bxh3 18.Rxh3 Qc8 19.g4 Qxc4∓* Jedinger (2185) - Kainz,J (2265)/email 2010*)* 17...fxe6 18.Nxb4 - 16.♗xe6?! fxe6 17.♘dxb4 ♘xb4 18.♘xb4;

C) 16.Nce3 Nd4 17.Kf1 b3 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'or' 18.Kg2 *(18.axb3 Nxb3 19.Ra2 Nc5* and Black looks comfortable, A. Motylev-B.Grachev, Sochi 2017. *)* 18...Rb8 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'and Black stood no worse in M. Rüfenacht-V.Iotov, correspondence 2015' 19.axb3 Rxb3 20.Rxa4 Rxb2 21.Qa1 Qb8 22.Ra2 Rxa2 23.Qxa2 Bd8 24.h5 Qb7 25.Qa3 Qc6= 26.Qa7 Bxd5 ½:½ Krivic,D (2566) - Pirs,M (2550)/email 2012

D) 16.Kf1 b3 17.axb3 *(17.Nce3 Nd4* - 16.♘ce3 ♘d4 17.♔f1 b3 *)* 17...axb3 18.Nce3 Rxa1 *(18...Ra2!?; 18...Nd4!?)* 19.Qxa1 Nd4 20.Kg2 Qa8= Rasulov,V (2491) - Mamedov,R (2642)/Baku 2015;

E) 16.b3 Kh8 *(16...Bxd5 17.cxd5 Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.0-0 Re8=* Nepomniachtchi,I (2632) - Ni,H (2701)/Sochi 2009 *16...Nd4!? 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Rc1 Re8 19.Bg2 axb3 20.axb3 Bxd5 21.cxd5 Rc8* Van der Bos,H (2435) - Shulman,B (2412)/email 2009; , and Black is at least no worse. , und Schwarz steht mindestens nicht schlechter. *)* 17.Kf1 Bxd5 18.exd5 *(18.cxd5 Nd4=* ½:½ Popov,I (2650) - Zhigalko,S (2655)/Minsk rapid 2015*)* 18...Nd4 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Kg2 d3 21.Rb1

axb3 22.axb3 Bd4 23.Qxd3 Qf6 24.Qf5 Qxf5 25.Bxf5 Ra2 26.Rhf1 Re8 27.Bd3 g6⩲ Bodnaruk,A (2456) - Zhigalko,S (2655)/Minsk rapid 2015]

16.Qd3

[In the event of Im Falle von 16.b3 Black has several options at his disposal; I would like to draw your attention to the following two: verfügt Schwarz über mehrere Optionen, wobei ich Sie auf zwei folgende Möglichkeiten aufmerksam machen möchte:

A) The safest continuation appears to me to be Die sicherste Fortsetzung scheint mir 16...Nd4 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?' , e.g. zu sein, z. B. 17.Nxd4 *(17.Kf1 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Nb5)* 17...exd4

A1) 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Nf4 d3 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' 20.0-0 Bxa1 21.Nxe6 Qe7 22.Nxf8 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'was J. Stephan-L.Dos Reis, correspondence 2007. Black looks just a shade better after' Bc3 *(22...Bd4 23.Qxd3 Bc5 24.Nxh7 Kxh7* . I would rather have Black's piece over White's three extra pawns. *)* 23.Nxh7 Qxe4 24.Ng5 Qe2 25.Qc1 Re8 26.Qf4 Bf6 27.Qf5 d2 28.Qd5+ Kh8 29.Nf3 Bc3 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.Qd5+ Qe6 32.Qg5 Qf7 33.Kg2 Qb7 34.Rd1 Qc6 35.Qg6 Re1 36.Qc2 Rxd1 37.Qxd1 Qe4 ½:½ Stephan,J (2489) - Dos Reis (2477)/email 2007;

A2) 18.Kf1 a4 19.Kg2 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Ra8=;

A3) 18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Bg2 d3 20.0-0 Qd4 21.Re1 f5 22.Qd2 fxe4 23.Bxe4 Bf5 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.Qe3 Qxe3 26.Rxe3 d5 27.Rxd3 dxc4 28.bxc4 Rc8 29.Rc1 Rfc5 30.Rd4 a4 31.Kf1 b3 32.axb3 axb3 33.Ke2 b2 34.Rb1 Rxc4 35.Rxc4 Rxc4 36.Rxb2 Kf7 with an obvious draw. mit offensichtlichem Remis.;

B) Bu Black can also act in a similar fashion to the main game: Schwarz kann aber auch analog der Hauptpartie agieren: 16...Qd7!? 17.Nxf6+ *(17.Bxe6?! fxe6 18.Nde3 Bd8 19.0-0 Bb6↑* Polivanov,A (2391) - Iljin,T (2442)/ Donetsk 2008 *)* 17...gxf6 18.Bg2 *(18.Bf5* would cost a pawn here, unlike in the game, and would thus be a mistake. würde hier im Unterschied zur Partie einen Bauern kosten und wäre somit ein Fehler *)* 18...f5 19.Qd2 Kh8 20.0-0-0 Rbd8 21.Qh6 f6 22.c5 Nd4 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Rxd4 Qc7∞]

16...Qd7!? 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!?' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'We of the Sveshnikov clan tend to be unafraid of doubled f-pawns." Mamedyarov allows his opponent to compromise the black pawn structure on the kingside, but in return White must give up his strong ♘d5 for the passive ♗f6. If White decides not to do that, Black plays ♗f6-d8 gaining a tempo over the plan ♗f6-e7, ♕d8-d7, ♗e7-d8. The alternatives: Mamedyarov erlaubt dem Gegner, die schwarze Bauernstruktur am Königsflügel zu kompromittieren, aber dafür muss Weiß seinen starken ♘d5 gegen den passiven ♗f6 abtauschen. Entscheidet sich der

Anziehende dagegen, spielt Schwarz ♗f6-d8 mit Tempogewinn gegenüber dem Plan ♗f6-e7, ♕d8-d7, ♗e7-d8.
Die Alternativen:
[16...Nd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.Kf1!?)* 17...exd4 18.Kf1!? *(18.Nxf6+ Qxf6 19.Bg2 Rbc8 20.b3 d5 21.cxd5* (Poetsch,H (2346) - Uwira,O (2249)/ 2012) *Rc3 22.Qd2 Re3+! 23.fxe3 dxe3 24.Qxe3 Qxa1+ 25.Kf2 Qxa2+ 26.Qe2 Qxb3 27.dxe6 fxe6+ 28.Bf3 a4⩱)* 18...Bxd5 19.cxd5 Qe7 20.Kg2 Rfe8 21.f3 a4 22.Rac1±]
[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'After' 16...a4 17.b3 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Black stands okay, F.Caruana-L.Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2014.' Ra8!? *(17...Bxd5 18.cxd5 Na5 19.0-0 Qe8 20.Ne3 Bd8 21.Nf5 Rb6 22.Qe3↑* Caruana,F (2782) - Van Wely,L (2672)/ Wijk aan Zee 2014 *)* 18.Rd1 axb3 19.axb3 Ra2 20.Kf1 Bxd5 21.cxd5 Nd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Kg2 Qa8 24.Rd2 Rxd2 25.Qxd2 Qa3 26.Qc2 Qa6 27.Rd1 h5 28.Bd7 Rd8 29.Bc6 Rc8= Saitou,A (2213) - Piccoli,F (2268)/email 2013]
[16...Be7 17.b3 *(17.Rd1 b3! 18.axb3 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nb4 20.Qd2 Nxc2+ 21.Qxc2 Rb4=* Kulon,K (2251) - Savina,A (2382)/Fermo 2009*)* 17...Qd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.0-0 Rbd8= Morozov,D (2376) - Stepanov,K (2356)/email 2014]

17.Nxf6+ gxf6 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Okay, so our f-pawns are doubled, but it's not so easy for White to exploit them."

18.Bf5!?N 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The text is Caruana's attempted improvement. He tries for a light square bind. Black looks okay in this version too."
[18.Bg2 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'was seen in W.So-H.Pascua, Philippines Championship, Manila 2008. Here Black can try' f5 *(18...b3! 19.axb3 Qb7 20.Ra3 Nb4 21.Qd2 Nxc2+ 22.Qxc2 Qb4+ 23.Qd2 a4!* with pressure for the sacrificed pawn. *)*
A) 19.Rd1 Rbd8 20.Qe3 f4!? *(20...Kh8!?)* 21.gxf4 f5⩲ So,W (2577) - Pascua,H (2174)/ Manila 2008;
B) 19.0-0-0!? (Korotylev) 19...b3!? 20.axb3 Rfc8 21.Qxd6!? *(21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Bxc2 24.Kxc2 Nd4+ 25.Rxd4 exd4 26.Ra1 Re8 27.Bf1 Re5=)* 21...Qb7!? 22.exf5 Bxc4! 23.b4! Qb5 24.Qh6 Nxb4 25.f6 Na2+ 26.Kd2 Rd8+ 27.Ke1 Rxd1+ 28.Kxd1 Qd7+ 29.Ke1 Qg4 30.Qd2 Be6⩲]
[18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.0-0-0 (Korotylev) Rfd8⩾]
Unlike after 18.♗g2, after the move in the game Black no longer has available the resource of f6-f5, but in return in many variations the advance d6-d5 becomes possible.
Im Unterschied zu 18.♗g2 steht dem Schwarzen nach dem Partiezug die Ressource f6-f5 nicht zu Verfügung, dafür aber wird in vielen Varianten der Vorstoß d6-d5 möglich.

18...Qb7 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Mamedyarov takes aim at e4 and the h1-a8 diagonal with his queen."
[It was also worth considering Beachtung verdiente auch 18...Bxf5!? 19.exf5 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'is also playable.' a4 *(*after nach *19...Rfd8 20.Ne3 Nd4 21.0-0±* White is slightly better according to GM Korotylev

steht Weiß laut GM Korotylev etwas besser *)* 20.b3 Rfd8 , e.g. , z. B. 21.Rd1 *(21.bxa4 d5 22.cxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 24.0-0 Ra5=)* 21...axb3 22.axb3 d5! 23.cxd5 *(23.Qxd5?! Qxf5↑)* 23...Nd4! 24.Nxd4 Qxd5 25.0-0 exd4 26.Rd2 Rbc8 27.Rfd1 Rc3 28.Qxd4 Qxd4 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxb3=]
[18...Rfd8!?]

19.Ne3 The knight takes control of the d5- and f5-squares, but in doing so gives up the d4-point. Of course, there are other continuations too, but none of them promised an advantage, e.g.:
Der Springer nimmt unter Kontrolle die Felder d5 und f5, gibt aber dabei den Punkt d4 auf. Natürlich gab es auch andere Fortsetzungen, aber keine davon versprach einen Vorteil, z. B.:
[19.0-0 b3 20.Ne3 *(20.axb3 Qxb3 21.Qd1 Bxf5 22.exf5 Rfd8⇄)* 20...Nd4 21.Qd1!? Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Nxf5 23.exf5 Rfd8! *(23...bxa2 24.Rxa2±* Korotylev *)* 24.axb3 Qxb3 25.Qxb3 Rxb3 26.Rxa5 Rxb2 27.Rd5 Rc2 28.Rfd1 Rc8 29.Rxd6 Kg7 30.Rd7 R2xc4=]
[19.0-0-0 Bxf5 *(19...Rfd8!?* Δ20...♗xf5 21.exf5 d5 22.exd5 ♘d4 23. ♘xd4 ♖xd5*; 19...a4!?)* 20.exf5 e4!? *(20...Rfd8!?; 20...a4!?)* 21.Qxd6 *(21.Qxe4? b3 22.axb3 Qxb3 23.Kd2 Ne5∓; 21.Qe3 Ne5 22.b3 Nd3+ 23.Kb1 d5 24.cxd5 Qxd5 25.Ne1 Rfd8 26.f3 Qe5 27.Nxd3 exd3 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 29.Qxd3 Qxg3=)* 21...b3 22.axb3 Qxb3 23.Qxf6 Nb4 24.Nxb4 Rxb4 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qf6+=]
[19.Bxe6?! fxe6 20.0-0 *(20.Qxd6? Nd4!* (Korotylev) *21.Nxd4 Qxe4+ 22.Kd2 Rbd8! 23.f3□ Rxd6 24.fxe4 Rxd4+ 25.Ke3 Rxc4∓)* 20...Rbd8↑]
[And certainly not the greedy 19.Qxd6?? , when Rfd8 20.Qc5 Bxf5 21.exf5 Nd4 22.0-0-0 Rdc8 wins.]

19...Nd4 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Black's power on the dark squares nullifies White's on the opposite colour.'' **20.0-0**
[20.Nd5?! Nxf5 21.exf5 Bxd5 22.cxd5 Rfc8↑]

20...b3 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The idea here is to artificially isolate the c4-pawn.''
[20...Nf3+!? 21.Kg2 Nd4 (with the king on g2 White can play neither ♕d3-d1 nor ♘e3-g4) (mit dem König auf g2 kann Weiß weder ♕d3-d1 noch ♘e3-g4 spielen) 22.f3 b3 - and with the pawn on f3 White no longer has the resource of ♕d3-d1-h5. - und mit dem Bauern auf f3 Weiß gibt es die Ressource ♕d3-d1-h5 nicht mehr.]
[A further idea would be Eine weitere Idee wäre 20...Kh8!? Δ21.Qd1 Rg8 22.Qh5 Rg7 23.Qh6 Qe7∞]

21.a3 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'It's logical to close queenside lines if White is playing for a win. Later on, Caruana may have regretted this decision, since the b2-pawn became a huge problem for him in the endgame.''
[Korotylev's suggestion of Gefährlicher sieht der Vorschlag von Korotylev 21.Qd1 looks more dangerous - his idea of bringing the queen to the kingside should not be taken lightly by Black. However, he can ward off the danger with exact play:
aus - die Idee, die Dame nach Königsflügel zu bringen, darf Schwarz nicht auf die leichte Schulter nehmen. Mit genauen Spiel kann er die Gefahr jedoch abwehren:
A) 21...bxa2 22.Rxa2 Kh8

23.Qh5 *(23.Rxa5)*;
B) 21...Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Nxf5 23.exf5 Rfd8 24.axb3 Qxb3 25.Qxb3 Rxb3 26.Rxa5 Rxb2 27.Rd5 Rc2 28.Rfd1 Rc8 29.Rxd6 Kg7 30.Rd7 R2xc4=]
[Instead, 21.axb3 Qxb3 22.Qd1 Qxd1 23.Rfxd1 Ra8 24.Ra3 Rfb8 25.Rda1 Nb3 26.R1a2 Nc1 27.Ra1 Nb3 is a repetition draw.]

21...Kh8 22.Rac1 Rbc8 23.Rfe1
Caruana is planning ♕d3-d1, but first employs his king's rook on the defence of the e4-pawn. He is prepared to sacrifice the exchange to this purpose.
Caruana plant ♕d3-d1, beteiligt aber zuerst seinen Königsturm an der Verteidigung des Bauern e4. Dabei ist er bereit, die Qualität zu opfern.
[23.Nd5 Kg7∞]

23...Rc5!? 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The game is balanced." Mamedyarov does not aim at winning material and trusts in active play - after the move in the game White has to reckong with the doubling of his opponent's rooks in the c-file, and in addition in the variation with the exhcnage of all the minor pieces on f5 the ♖c5 supports the advance d6-d5.
Mamedyarov verzichtet auf Materialgewinn und setzt auf aktives Spiel - nach dem Partiezug muss Weiß mit der Verdoppelung der gegnerischen Türme auf der c-Linie rechnen, außerdem unterstützt der ♖c5 in den Variante mit dem Tausch aller Leichtfiguren auf f5 den Vorstoß d6-d5.
[23...Nf3+ 24.Kg2 Nxe1+ 25.Rxe1 (♕ Korotylev) Rg8 26.Qd1 a4 27.Qh5 Rg7 28.Qh6 Qe7 29.Nd5 Qd8 30.Nxf6 Bxf5 *(30...Qf8? 31.Kf1! Bxf5 32.exf5 Rxc4 33.Nxh7 Rxh4 34.Qxh4 Rxh7 35.Qxa4±)* 31.exf5 Rxc4 32.Nh5 Rg8 33.Nf6 Rg7 with a repetition of moves. mit Zugwiederholung.]

24.Qd1 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Intending to swing the queen over to h5, which induces Black's next move." **24...Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Nxf5 26.exf5 Rd8!?**
[26...d5 27.cxd5 Rxd5 28.Qf3 Rb8 29.Red1 Rxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Kg7 31.Rc3 Qe4 32.Qd3 Qxd3 33.Rxd3 a4 34.Rc3 Rd8 35.Rc4 Rd2=]

27.Qh5 Kg7 28.Rc3 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Caruana wants to launch an attack, which is pretty much impossible against Black's well-protected king. White must watch out for both his c4-pawn and also ...d6-d5 breaks."
[28.Qg4+
A) 28...Kh8 29.Qh5 (Korotylev) Qd7!? *(29...Kg7 30.Qg4+* with a repetition of moves mit Zugwiederholung *)* 30.Red1=;
B) 28...Kf8 29.Qh5 Ke7 30.Qxh7 Rdc8 31.Qg7 Rxc4 32.Rxc4 Rxc4 33.h5 Qc6 34.h6 Rc1 35.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 36.Kg2 Qc6+ 37.Kh2 Qc2 38.Kg2 Qc6+ mit Remis. mit Remis.]

28...h6
[The move in the game prevents White from taking on e5 after d6-d5, as would be the case in the variation with Der Partiezug verhindert, dass Weiß nach d6-d5 auf e5 nimmt, wie es in der Variante 28...d5 29.Rxe5 Moreover, even then that would not mean anything bad for Black: der Fall wäre. Übrigens wäre es auch dann für Schwarz noch nichts schlimmes bedeuten: Rxc4 *(29...fxe5?? 30.Qg5++-)* 30.Rce3 Rc1+ 31.Kh2 Qb5 32.Re7 Rf8 33.Re2 Qc4 34.R7e3 Qd4 35.Qf3

Qd1 36.Rxb3 Qg1+ 37.Kh3 Qf1+ 38.Kh2 *(38.Kg4?? h5+ 39.Kxh5 Rc4-+)* 38...Qg1+ with perpetual check. mit Dauerschach.]

29.Ree3?! 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Caruana overestimates his attacking chances. He doesn't have time for g2-g4, Rg3 and g4-g5. He should have moderated his ambitions."
It is hard to understand why Caruana asks his opponent to play a5-a4 which in any case is useful for Black, and thus degrades the position of his own rook: now White can neither double his rooks on the c-file (for the defence of the c4-pawn), nor on the d-file, the advance d6-d5 being linked to the threat of the fork with d5-d4, and in addition now the first rank could under certain circumstances tend towards weakness. Es ist schwer zu verstehen, wozu Caruana den Gegner bittet, a5-a4 zu spielen, was für den Nachziehenden ohnehin nützlich ist, und dabei die Position seines eigenen Turmes verschlechtert: nun kann Weiß seine Türme weder auf der c-Linie (für die Verteidigung des Bauern c4), noch auf der d-Linie verdoppeln, der Vorstoß d6-d5 wird mit der Gabeldrohung d5-d4 verbunden, und außerdem kann sich jetzt die erste Reihe unter Umständen als schwach erweisen.

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The game remains in balance after' ⌓29.Qg4+ Kh7 30.Rd1 d5 (according Korotylev) (so weit Korotylev) *(30...a4 31.Qh5 Qc7 32.Rd5 .)* 31.Qf3 a4 32.cxd5 Rxc3 33.Qxc3 Rxd5 34.Rxd5 Qxd5 35.Qb4 mit Remis. mit Remis.]

29...a4 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Protecting b3. " Suddenly White finds himself in a very unpleasant situation: the threats 30...d5 and above all 30...♖c8 are extremely annoying, whils his own activity on the kingside has run into sand.
Plötzlich ist Weiß in eine sehr unangenehme Situation geraten: die Drohungen 30...d5 und vor allem 30...♖c8 sind äußerst lästig, während seine eigene Aktivität am Königsflügel im Sand verlaufen ist.

30.Qe2

[30.g4? Rh8 Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'negates g4-g5 ideas.']

[30.Qg4+!? Kh7 *(30...Kf8 31.Qh5 Kg7 32.Qg4+)* 31.Red3 d5 32.cxd5 Rxc3 33.Rxc3 Rxd5 34.Qf3 Qd7 35.Rc7 Rd1+ 36.Kg2 e4! 37.Qc3 *(≤37.Qh5?! Qxc7 38.Qxd1 Qe5)* 37...Qxf5 38.Rc5! *(38.Rxf7+? Kg6 39.Rf8 Rd3 40.Rg8+ Kh7 41.Qc8 Qxc8 42.Rxc8 Rd2-+)* 38...Qe6 39.Rc6 Qe5! 40.Qc4 Kg7 41.Qe2 Qd5 42.Qg4+ Kh7 43.Rc5! Qxc5 44.Qxd1 with a difficult, but perhaps neverheless tenable endgame.
mit einem schwierigen, aber vielleicht doch haltbaren Endspiel.]

30...d5

[⌓30...Rdc8! (Korotylev) , e.g. , z.B.
A) 31.Qd3 Qc6 32.Re4 d5 33.cxd5 Rxc3 34.bxc3 Qxc3 35.Rg4+ Kh7 36.Qxc3 Rxc3 37.Rb4 Rd3-+;
B) 31.g4 d5! 32.Qf3 Qd7 33.g5 *(*or *33.cxd5 Rxc3 34.Rxc3 Rxc3 35.Qxc3 Qxd5* , threatening ... Qd1+ and ...Qc2!, while *36.Qe1 Qd3* sees White overextended *)* 33...d4 34.Qh5 Rh8! 35.gxh6+ Kf8 36.Rcd3 Rxc4 and White is strategically busted.;
C) 31.f4!? Qd7 32.fxe5 dxe5 33.Qg4+ Kh7 34.Red3 Qc7 with considerable winning

chances. mit beträchtlichen Gewinnchancen.]

31.Qf3? 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '?"

[31.cxd5 Rcxd5 Cyrus Lakdawala: 'leaves White vulnerable on both the first and second ranks, but this is better than the game continuation. After' *(31...Rdxd5 32.Qf3 Qb5 33.Kg2 Rd2 34.Rcd3!∓* Korotylev *)* 32.Qf3 Qd7∓ *(32...Qa7* White must now prevent ...Rd2. *33.Rc4 Rd4* Black is in control but not fully winning, with White's position a shadow, neither alive nor dead. Dodges Qg4+ *)*]

31...Rdc8! 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!"

Now things look quite gloomy for White.

Jetzt wird es für Weiß ganz düster.

[31...Rxc4? 32.Rxc4 Qd7 33.Rd3+-]

32.cxd5? -5.88/16

[32.Rcd3∓ -1.48/10]

32...Rxc3-+ 33.Rxc3 Rxc3 34.Qxc3 Qxd5-+ 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'The ending may look even, but White is completely busted for the following reasons: -- 1. Black's king is completely safe from perpetual check attempts. -- 2. There is no remedy to Black's threat ...Qd1+ and ...Qc2, after which White's b2-pawn falls. -- 3. When b2 falls, White is too slow in the promotion race." **35.Qb4 h5**

[35...e4! 36.Qxa4 Qd1+ 37.Kg2 -8.97/21 *(⌓37.Kh2* -4.56/14 *Qe2 38.Qa7)* 37...Qc2 38.Qd4 e3! 39.Qxe3 Qxb2 40.g4 Qc2 Hoping for ...b2. 41.g5 b2 42.gxf6+ Kh7 43.Qg3 Qc6+ 44.Kh2 Qxf6-+]

[Reversing the order with 35...Qd1+ 36.Kg2 h5! is slightly more accurate.]

36.Qxa4

[After 36.Qe1 Qf3 White can barely move. Against Qe2]

'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (critical decision): Should Black play 36...Qd1+, followed by 37...Qc2 - ? Or should he play 36...e4 - ? In one line the assessment is -10.36 - more than a full queen up for Black; while in the other the assessment plummets shockingly to 0.00. Which line should Black play?"

36...Qd3? -0.35/8 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Both action and inaction produce consequences. This is a catastrophic error, after which White should hold the draw." Although Mamedyarov - unlike his opponent - had sufficient time, he did not make use of it. As a consequence of that he now makes a mistake and suddenly gives Caruana a chance to save the game.

Obwohl Mamedyarov - im Unterschied von seinem Gegner - genügend Zeit hatte, machte er davon keinen Gebrauch. Als Folge davon begeht er jetzt einen Fehler und gibt Caruana plötzlich eine Chance, die Partie zu retten.

[Cyrus Lakdawala: 'ANSWER: Black wins easily with the more vigorous' The correct move was Richtig war 36...e4! Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' , e.g. , z.B.

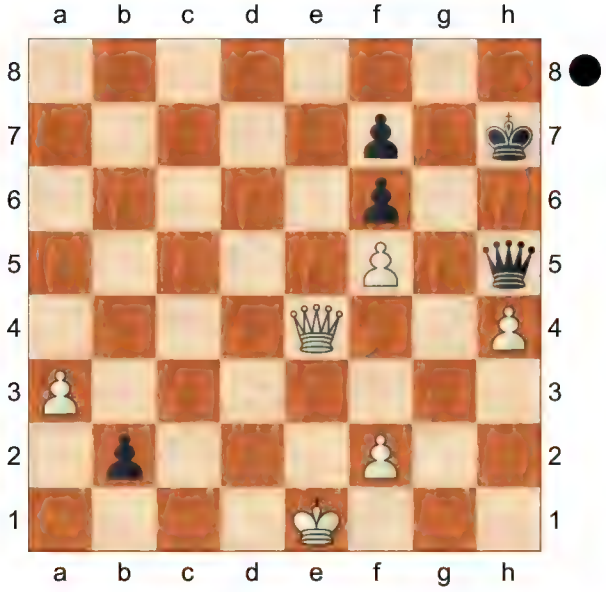
A) 37.Qa7 Qe5 *(37...Qd2 38.a4 Qxb2* and Black wins the promotion race by a mile. *)* 38.g4 hxg4 39.h5 Qxb2 40.h6+ Kxh6 41.Qxf7 Kg5-+;

B) 37.Qb4 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 *(38.Kg2 e3 39.fxe3 Qe2+ 40.Kh3 Qxb2-+* Korotylev *)* 38...e3 39.fxe3 Qc2+ 40.Kg1 Qxb2-+]

[36...Qd1+? -0.23/12 36...e4 -5.12 37.Kg2 Qc2?? -0.25/22 (Black should play *37...Qd5+!-+* -2.51/17 *38.Kg1 e4)* 38.g4!]

[36...e4!-+ -6.33/9 37.Qa7 Qd1+ *(37...Qxf5 38.Qd4=)* 38.Kg2 Qe2

(38...Qd2? 39.g4-+)]
37.g4!∓ 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!" **37...Qb1+ 38.Kg2 Qxb2 39.gxh5** 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White has just enough to hold the draw here." **39...Qc2 40.Qg4+ Kh7** 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (critical decision): White can play 41 h6, or he can play 41 Qa4, pinning Black's b-pawn. One line holds the draw, while the other loses. Which one would you play?" **41.h6?** -7.01/17 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '??' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'This is where your insane dog decides to dig up your backyard, for absolutely no reason. Most of us find it comforting that super-GMs make double question marks on occasion, the same way we do." In the time trouble phase Caruana drew a lucky ticket, but right on move 41 he throws it away!
In der Zeitnotphase hat Caruana ein Glücksticket bekommen, aber gerade mit dem 41. Zug wirft er es weg!
[The continuation he needed to play was Die "gesuchte Fortsetzung" war 41.Qa4! e.g. z.B.
A) 41...Qd3 42.Qb4! e4 *(42...Kg7* 0.00/44 42...e4 -0.36 *43.h6+ Kh7 44.Qf8 Qe4+ 45.Kf1 Qc4+ 46.Kg2=)* 43.Qe7! Qf3+ 44.Kf1! Qxh5
A1) 45.Qxf6? -1.83/14 45.Ke1 -0.31 is weaker on account of ist schwächer wegen Qd1+ 46.Kg2 Qg4+! 47.Kf1 -1.30/11 *(*White has to play *47.Kh2* -0.79/3 *Qg7 48.Qe7)* 47...Qg7!∓ 48.Qe7 b2 49.Qb4? -1.06/13 *(49.Qb7-+* -2.68/25 *Qf6 50.Ke2)* 49...Qe5∓ aiming for ...e3! , even if this position could perhaps still be held with , auch wenn diese Stellung mit 50.Kg2 -2.39/22 . vielleicht noch zu halten ist *(50.Ke2∓* -1.37/4 was called for. *)*;
A2) 45.Ke1! Prevents Qd1+. 45...b2 46.Qb4 *(46.Qxe4??* -6.85/27 46.Qb7 0.00



Qh6!-+) 46...Qxh4 47.Qxb2 with a draw mit Remis;
B) 41...Kh6 0.00/16 41...Qd3 -0.66 42.Qe8! Kxh5 43.Kg3! Qc3+ *(43...Qxf5!? 44.Qh8+□ Kg6 45.Qg8+ Kh5 46.Qh8+ Kg6 47.Qg8+ Kh5 48.Qh8+=)* 44.f3! Qe1+ 45.Kg2 Kxh4 46.Qh8+! Kg5 47.Qg7+ Kf4 48.Qg4+ Ke3 49.Qe4+ Kd2 50.Qb4+ Ke2 Strongly threatening ...Qxb4. 51.Qc4+=;
C) 41...Qd1 42.Qc4! Against Qd5+ Kg8 43.h6! b2 44.Qb5! Threatening mate with Qe8+. Qg4+ *(*not *44...b1Q??* #3/15 44...Qg4+ 0. 00 and it is Black's king who is mated after *45.Qe8+ Kh7 46.Qxf7+ Kh8 47.Qg7#)* 45.Kf1 Qd1+ and Black must take perpetual check.;

D) 41...Qc3 ...b2 would now be deadly. 42.Qe8 Qc4 *(42...Kg7?? #3/25* 42...Qc4 -0.09 *43.h6+!+-)* 43.Qb8! , and Black can make no further progress because his queen cannot protect the f7-pawn and at the same time support its own passed pawn, e.g. , und Schwarz kommt nicht weiter, weil seiner Dame es nicht möglich ist, den Bauern f7 zu decken und gleichzeitig ihren Freibauern zu unterstützen, z.B. Qg4+ *(43...Kg7 44.h6+ Kh7 45.Qf8 Qg4+ 46.Kf1 Qd1+=)* 44.Kf1! Qh3+ 45.Kg1! Kg7 46.h6+ Kh7! 47.Qf8 Qg4+ 48.Kf1 Qd1+=]

[41.Qa4∓ -0.53/16]

41...Kxh6-+ 42.Qg8 Qxf5 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Now there is no perpetual check." **43.Qf8+**

[If 43.Qh8+ Qh7? -7.65/8 , the problem is that *(43...Kg6* -2.84/4 *44.f3 Qc2+ 45.Kg3 Kf5)* 44.Qxf6+-+ fails miserably to Qg6+ , when queens are removed from the board and Black's b-pawn promotes.]

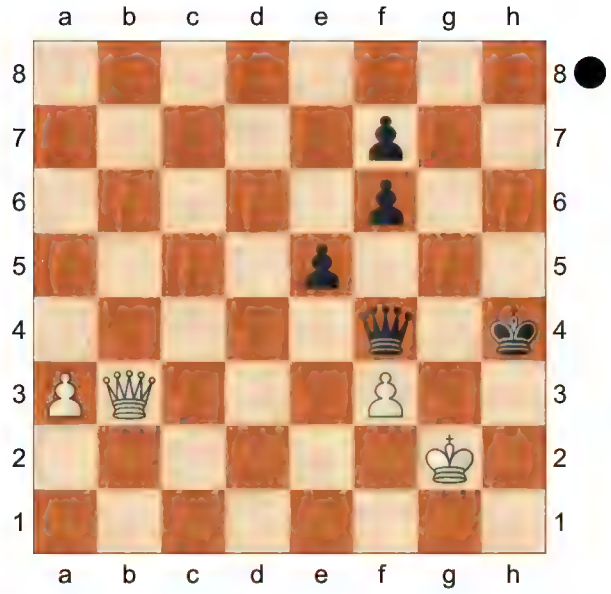
43...Kh5-+ 44.f3 Kxh4

[Easier is 44...Qc2+! 45.Kh3 Qc4! 46.Qh8+ Kg6 47.Qg8+ Kf5 .]

45.Qb4+ Qf4 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!"

[Also winning is 45...e4! 46.Qxb3 Qh3+! 47.Kf2 Qg3+ 48.Ke2 Qg2+ 49.Kd1 exf3 50.Qxf7 Qe2+ 51.Kc1 Qe5 Threatens to win with ...f2. 52.Qa7 Qe1+ -11.55/15 *(⌓52...Qc3+* -27.28/12 *53.Kb1 Qd3+ 54.Kc1 Qf1+ 55.Kb2 Qe2+ 56.Kc1 f2 57.Qh7+ Kg3 58.Qg6+ Qg4 59.Qd3+ Kg2 60.Qd5+ Kg1 61.Qc5 Qg5+ 62.Qxg5+ fxg5 63.Kc2 f1Q 64.Kc3 g4 65.Kd4 Kh2 66.Ke4 g3 67.Ke5 g2 68.Kd6 g1Q 69.Kd7 Qf5+ 70.Ke8 Qe6+ 71.Kf8 Qgg8#)* 53.Kc2 Qe2+ 54.Kb3 f2 . Black promotes and again there is no perpetual check.]

46.Qxb3



'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'In a famine it can be a long time before our next meal. The presumptuous pipsqueak on b3, who earlier made so much trouble for White, just fell. On top of that, White is now the only one with a passed pawn. These factors are still not enough to save Caruana, since mating threats begin to arise around his king." **46...Qd2+!**

47.Kf1 Kg3 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'Threatening 48... Qf2 mate. " **48.f4+** 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'There is no choice."

[48.Qb6?? allows Qd1# .]

48...Kxf4 49.a4 f5 50.Qb5 Qd1+ 51.Kf2 Qc2+ 52.Kf1 -8.32/15

[⌓52.Ke1 -4.31/12 Ke4 53.Qb4+ Kf3 54.Qa3+ Kg2 55.Qe7 Qe4+ *(55...Qxa4 56.Qg5+ Qg4 57.Qd2+ Kh3 58.Qe3+ Qg3+ 59.Kf1-+)* 56.Kd2]

52...f6-+ 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!" **53.Qb4+**

[After 53.a5 Kf3 54.Qd5+ Ke3

White doesn't have a single reasonable check, and 55.Kg1 f4 (-> ...f3) 56.a6 f3 forces mate.]

53...e4 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'There are way too many pawns sheltering Black's king and there is no way White can force a perpetual. His passed a-pawn is slower than Black's mating/promotion threats." **54.Qb5 Kg3** 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'White's endangered king shivers in his hovel." **55.Qe2**

[Or 55.Qxf5 Qd1# .]

'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'EXERCISE (critical decision): Work out the ramifications of a queen swap into a king and pawn ending. Does Black win?" **55...Qxe2+** 'Cyrus Lakdawala: '!' Cyrus Lakdawala: 'ANSWER: Black is faster after the queen trade."

[55...Qxa4 56.Qg2+ Kf4 57.Qf2+ Ke5 58.Qc5+ Ke6 59.Qb6+ Kd5 60.Qxf6∓]

56.Kxe2 f4 57.a5 -#23/16

[57.Kf1-+ -4.95/1 Kf3 58.Ke1 e3 59.a5 e2 60.Kd2 Kf2 61.Kc2 e1Q *(61...e1B 62.a6=)* 62.a6 Qe2+ 63.Kb3 Qxa6 64.Kb4 f3 65.Kc3 Ke2 66.Kb4 f2 67.Kc5 f1Q *(67...f1R* leads to mate. *68.Kb4 Rf4+ 69.Kc3 Qb7 70.Kc2 Rc4#)* 68.Kd4 Qc1 69.Ke4 Qd3#]

57...f3+ 58.Kf1 'Cyrus Lakdawala: 'After" **58...e3 59.a6** White is too slow; e.g. **59...e2+ 60.Ke1 f2+ 61.Kxe2 Kg2** and Black promotes first. --- Have you ever played a game where a week's worth of energy has been drained in just a few hours' time? This game surely must have felt this way to Caruana and Mamedyarov. 0-1 (61) Caruana,F (2804)-Mamedyarov,S (2748) Shamkir 2016 [Cyrus Lakdawala]

0-1

B33

□ **Makarian,Rudik** **2521**
■ **Chigaev,Maksim** **2631**
Cheliabinsk Variation Blitz (9) 31.03.22
[Ris,Robert MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 Ris,Robert Ris,Robert **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nab1 Ne7!?**

[9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Bc4 Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 15.c3 Be6 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Nbc3 a5 18.b3 Rc8 19.Qe2 Rc5 20.Nxb4 axb4 21.Nb5 Be7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rad1 Qb6 24.Rd2 Nasuta,G (2561)-Ris,R (2457) Erkenschwick 2019 ½-½]

10.Bxf6N

[10.Nd2 see Baklan-Lubbe.]

[10.a4? -0.80/22 10.Nd2 0.25 b4! 11.Nd5 Nxe4 12.Bxe7 Bxe7 13.Qf3 f5! 14.Bd3 0-0 15.Bxe4 fxe4 16.Qxe4 Bb7∓]

[10.a3 Bb7 11.Nd2 d5 12.exd5 Nexd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.c4 Qd7 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Qb3 b4 17.Rd1 Rd8 18.Be2 Bxg2 19.Nf3 Bd6 20.a4 Sveshnikov-9...Ne7 10.a3 Bb7 Lifetime Repertoires: s 1. e4 2023]

10...gxf6 11.a4

[11.Bd3?! b4 *(11...Rg8!?)* 12.Ne2 *(12.Nd5?* -0.77/20 12.Ne2 -0.36 *Nxd5 13.exd5 f5∓)* 12...f5 13.c4 *(13.exf5?! d5! 14.c3* Huschenbeth-Lagarde, Reykjavik 2021 *Bg7!∓)* 13...fxe4 14.Bxe4 Rb8 15.Ng3 Bg7 16.Qh5 *(16.Nh5 0-0 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.g3 f5 19.Bg2 f4∓)* 16...d5 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Ne7 20.Qh5 Rb6!∓]

[11.Be2 Horvath,P-Talaber, Nyiregyhaza 1996 f5⇄]

11...b4 The position is equal. **12.Nd5 Bg7**

[12...Nxd5! 13.Qxd5

A) Simpler is 13...Be6 14.Qc6+ Bd7 15.Qd5= *(15.Qc4?! Qc8 16.Qxb4 d5∓)* 15...Qc8!?⇄;

B) 13...Ra7 14.Bc4 Rg8 15.g3 f5! *(15...Bh6* Jacoby-Horvath,T Copenhagen 1986 *16.0-0±)* 16.Nd2 Rd7 17.f3! Bb7 18.Qd3 fxe4! 19.fxe4 Bh6 20.Rf1 Rg6 21.Bd5 Strongly threatening Nc4. Bxd2+ 22.Qxd2 Threatens to win with 0-0-0. Bxd5 23.Qxd5 0-0-0 is the strong threat. Rc7!=]

13.Bc4

[13.Nxb4!? f5⇄]

13...f5 14.Nd2 0-0?!

[14...Bb7⇄]

15.Qh5 0.00/19

[15.Qf3! fxe4 16.Nxe4±]

[15.Nxb4 Bb7 16.exf5 d5∓ *(16...Bxg2? 17.Rg1+-)*]

[15.Qf3!± 0.40/21]

15...Ra7 0.67/23

[15...Be6! White must now prevent ... fxe4. 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.exf5 Bxc4 18.Nxc4 Rd1 would now be deadly. d5⇄]

[15...Be6!= 0.00/19]

16.exf5

[16.Nxb4 fxe4 17.Nd5 Bb7 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7∓]

16...Nxf5 17.Bd3 -0.14/23

[17.0-0-0±]

[17.0-0-0± 0.63/22]

17...Qh4=

[17...Nh6!]

18.Qxh4 Nxh4 19.g3 Ng6

[19...Bb7!? 20.Bc4 Nf5=]

20.Nxb4 f5 1.04/21

[20...a5]

[20...Rb7= -0.03/21 keeps the balance. 21.Nxa6 e4 22.Nxe4 *(22.Bxe4 Re7=)* 22...Rxb2]

21.0-0 0.03/23

[21.0-0-0!±]

[21.0-0-0± 1.04/21]

21...e4 22.Bc4+ Kh8 23.c3 a5

[23...Ne5⇄]

24.Nc6 Rc7 25.Nxa5

d5! 26.Bb5 f4 27.Rad1 -0.76/22

[27.Nc6= -0.03/20]

27...Bh3 28.Rfe1 -1.14/19

[28.Nc6∓ -0.53/17]

28...Bh6 -0.27/17 This pair of bishops is nice.

[28...Ne5∓ -1.14/19 And now ...Bh6 would win. 29.Nab3 e3 30.fxe3 f3]

29.Ndb3? -1.97/24

[29.Nc6= -0.27/17 and White stays safe.]

29...e3? -0.17/17

[Black should play 29...Ne5-+ -1.97/24 30.Nd4 Rg7]

30.fxe3

[30.Rxd5 exf2+ 31.Kxf2 fxg3+ 32.Kxg3 Rg7-+]

30...fxg3

[30...fxe3 seems wilder. 31.Nd4 Rcf7 32.Bf1 e2]

31.hxg3

[31.Rxd5 g2 32.Nd2 *(32.Rh5? Bxe3+* Deflection, Back Rank, Promotion *33.Rxe3 Rf1+* Back Rank *)* 32...Rcf7-+]

31...Ne5! 32.Nd4 -0.60/23

[32.Rxd5= -0.19/23 is superior. Nf3+ 33.Kf2]

32...Rg7∓ 33.Kh2

Bc8 aiming for ...Rfg8. Black is more active. **34.Rf1 Rfg8 35.Nf5 Bxf5 36.Rxf5**

(Diagram)

Ng4+ 37.Kh1? -5.11/22

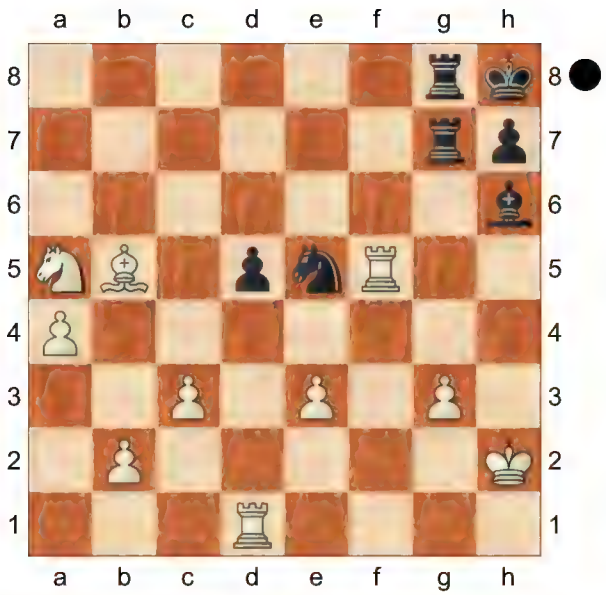
[37.Kg1!∓ -0.70/21]

37...Nxe3-+ (-> ...Rxg3!) **38.Rdxd5** -#8/18

[38.Rf3-+ -4.98/19 Nxd1 39.Be2 Nxb2 40.Nc6]

38...Nxd5 -5.26/22

[⌓38...Rxg3 -#8/18 39.Kh2 Rg2+ 40.Kh3 Nxd5 41.Bd7 Nf4+ 42.Rxf4 Bxf4 *(42...R8g3+* gets mated. *43.Kh4 Bxf4 44.Kh5 Rh2+ 45.Bh3 Rhxh3#)*



43.Kh4 Rh2+ *(43...Rxb2* leads to mate. *44.Bh3 Rh2 45.Nc6 Bg3+* Deflection *46.Kh5 Rxh3#)* 44.Bh3 Bg3+ Deflection 45.Kh5 Rxh3#]

39.Rxd5 Rxg3 Black mates. **40.Bd7 Rg1+ 41.Kh2 Bf4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.41.

Loses game: White=2 --- Black=1

Missed win: --- Black=1

Mistake: White=7 Black=4

Inaccurate: White=2 Black=1

OK: White=9 Black=10

Best: White=1 Black=3

Strong: --- Black=1

Brilliant: --- Black=1

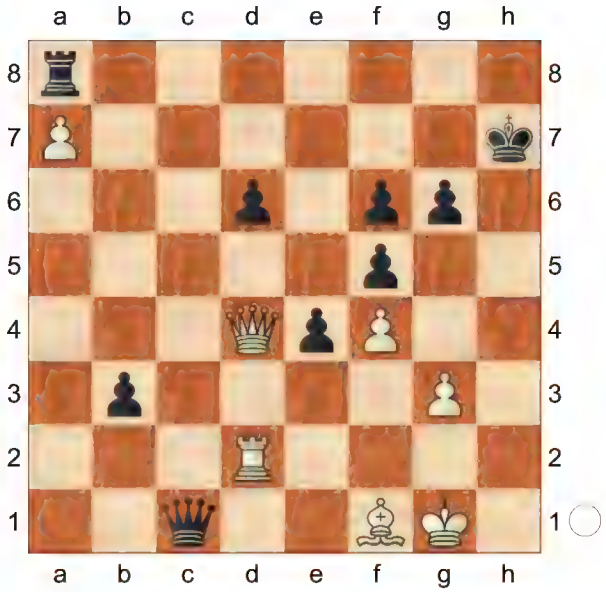
0-1

B33

□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2713**
■ **Ponomariov,Ruslan** **2706**
Dortmund 44th (3) 12.07.2016
[Ftacnik,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 Ftacnik,Lubomir Ftacnik,Lubomir Ftacnik,Lubomir Ftacnik,Lubomir: 'Ftacnik,L' **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5** The system preventing the key idea of White's set up g2-g4 has long become a regular guest even on the highest level. It is necessary to change the track, and Dominguez Perez immediately modifies the pawn structure with the knight jump to d5. **9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5** This highly charged position has so far seen only few different types of solutions for the tension around the d5-pawn. The Cuban player chooses a move which does not enjoy great reputation and in annotations is usually awarded an ?! Most probably the best continuation should be 13.♕a5, since this does not expose White's pawn structure. **13...Ne7! 14.Re1 Bg7** Strongly threatening ...e4! Every serious choice in the game of chess might be critical for the success. A world of its own would be introduced by 14...♘fxd5. The nature of the fight would have been different, with a rather small advanatge for White.
[14...Nxd5? 15.Bxb5+ *(15.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 15...axb5 16.Qxd5+-]
15.c3 0-0! Ponomariov is not losing control of the situation, his choice is objectively best.
[15...Nxd5? 16.Bxb5+ *(16.Bxf5 Ne7±)* 16...axb5 17.Qxd5+-]
16.Qh5 White has an edge. **16...e4**
[16...Nxd5 17.Qxf5 *(17.Bxf5 h6±)* 17...Nf6 18.Nc2±]
17.Bf1 Re8 The modern engines are helping players to understand chess much better. Objectively best was the very clever exchange of the bishops, with the line leading to the equal ending.
[17...Nxd5 18.Qxf5 Nf6 19.Nc2±]
18.Rad1 Qc8 0.38/21
[18...Qa5= -0.01/19]
19.Nc2 Ng6 20.Nd4 -0.09/21
Due to the slightly assymetrical pawn structure, the white bishop should be better than the black knight. Objectively speaking the presence of rooks on the board is minimizing the defender's problem.
[20.Nb4!± 0.37/21]
20...Bxd4!= 21.Rxd4 Re5 22.Qh6 Qc5 0.40/25
[22...Qe8]
[22...Qf8= -0.13/24 23.Qxf8+ Kxf8]
23.h4± And now h5 would win. **23...Rxd5** 0.99/23
[23...Qc8± 0.62/24 deserves consideration.]
24.h5± White is more active. **24...Rxd4N**
[24...Ne5 2.75/24 24...Rxd4 1.29 25.Qd2 Nc4 26.Bxc4 Rxd4 27.Qg5+ Abreu Delgado,A (2487)-Dominguez Perez,L (2721) Guines (rapid) 108/(17) 2009]
25.cxd4
[25.hxg6 hxg6 26.cxd4 Qxd4±]
25...Qxd4 26.hxg6→ White attacks.
26...hxg6 27.Qc1 Kg7 28.Rd1 Dominguez has to start advancing his pawns or admit that otherwise he can hardly improve the position. **28...Qf6** 1.35/21
[28...Qc5!± 0.59/22]

29.Qc6 Rd8 1.98/21
[29...Rh8± 1.35/23 was called for.]
30.Qxa6+- Qxb2 31.Qb6!
[31.Bxb5?! d5±]
[31.Rxd6 e3 32.fxe3 *(32.Rxd8 Qxf2+ 33.Kh2 Qh4+ 34.Kg1 Qf2+ 35.Kh2 Qh4+ 36.Kg1 Qf2+=)* 32...Qe5 33.Rxd8 Qxe3+ 34.Kh2 Qh6+ 35.Kg1 Qe3+ 36.Kh2 Qh6+ 37.Kg3 Qe3+ 38.Kh2=]
31...Rc8 2.35/21
[⌓31...Qc2 1.83/22]
32.a4!
[32.Qxb5 Qxa2 33.Rxd6 Qa1+-]
[32.Rxd6?! Rc1 33.Qd4+ Qxd4 34.Rxd4 Ra1]
[32.Bxb5 Rc4=]
32...b4 33.a5
[33.Rxd6 Rc1 34.Qd4+ Qxd4 35.Rxd4 b3±]
33...b3 The knight became active for the first time in the game, and White finds it intolerable to live with the intruder.
34.a6!
[34.Qxd6 Rc1 35.a6 Qc3]
34...Qc2 35.Qd4+
[35.Qxd6 b2 36.Qd7 Rf8 37.Qd4+ Kg8-+]
35...Kg8 36.Rd2!
[36.Qxd6?! b2 37.a7 *(37.Qd7 Rf8∓)* 37...e3= *(37...b1B? 38.Qb8+-; 37...b1Q? 38.Rxb1 Qxb1 39.Qc6+-* Decoy *)*]
36...Qc1!? 2.15/25 Solid practical solution as the deficient pawn structure will minimize white's chances to play for win.
[⌓36...Qb1 1.68/23 37.a7 *(37.Qxd6 Qa1+-)* 37...Qc1]
37.g3
[37.Qxd6? b2 38.Rd1 b1Q-+ *(38...b1R 39.Rxc1 Rcxc1 40.a7±)*]
37...Kh7 2.82/23
[37...d5± 1.39/21 keeps fighting. 38.a7 *(38.Qxd5 b2=)* 38...Qc6]
38.a7!
[38.Qxd6 b2-+]
38...Ra8? 4.64/25
[38...Qc5 2.75/20 39.Qxc5 *(39.Qxd6 Qxa7 40.Qd5 Rc3=)* 39...dxc5]
39.f4 2.06/19
[39.Qxd6? b2-+]
[⌓39.f3 4.64/25 aiming for Rh2+. f6 40.fxe4 *(40.Qxd6 Rxa7 41.fxe4 fxe4=)*]
39...f6



40.Qb6! Intending Qb7+ and mate. Very strong grandmasters are groomed not to make any serious decisions in the moments before the time control. Let us just note that the immediate exchange of the rooks was a serious alternative.
40...Qc5+ 41.Qxc5 dxc5 Endgame. KRB-KR **42.Rd7+ Kh6 43.Bc4! b2 44.Ba2 c4** 3.12/27
[⌓44...g5 2.00/20 45.fxg5+ Kg6 46.gxf6 Kxf6]
45.Bb1 1.72/23 White is enjoying the advantage of a spare pawn, but it seems to be very difficult to make any progress. Black has located his pieces on the best

squares, and the g3-pawn remains a serious weakness.

[45.Bxc4 b1Q+ *(45...b1B? 46.Bd5+-)* 46.Kf2 Rxa7 47.Rxa7 Qb6+ 48.Ke2 Qxa7 49.Kf1 e3 50.Ke2 Qd4 51.Kf3 Qxc4 *(51...Qe4+ 52.Ke2 Qxc4+ 53.Kxe3 Kh5 54.Kd2 Kg4 55.Ke3 Kxg3 56.Kd2 Kf3 57.Kd1 Ke3 58.Ke1 Qe2#)* 52.Kxe3 Kh5 53.Kf2 Kg4 54.Ke3 Kxg3 55.Kd2 Kf3 *(55...Kxf4 56.Ke1 Ke3 57.Kd1 f4 58.Ke1 Qe2#)* 56.Kd1 Ke3 57.Ke1 Qe2#]

[⌓45.Kf2 3.12/27]

45...g5 2.42/28

[⌓45...Kh5 1.72/23 46.Bc2 g5]

46.Kg2 c3? 3.79/27

[46...Kg6 2.08/20 47.Kf2 c3]

47.Bc2 2.16/28

[⌓47.fxg5+ 3.79/27 fxg5 48.g4]

47...Kh5? 3.79/30

[47...Kg6 2.16/28 48.Rb7 Kh5 49.Rh7+ Kg6]

48.Bd1+ Kg6 49.Bc2 Kh5 50.Kf2 Re8? 3.81/30

[50...gxf4? 51.gxf4 Kg4 52.Ke3+-]

[50...Rc8 1.91/27 might work better.]

51.Rh7+ Kg6 52.Rb7 Ra8 53.Ke3 Kh5 54.Bd1+ Kg6 55.Bc2 Kh5

It is a bit unusual to see the same position after a distance of 9 moves (46th move). If Dominguez wants to play on, he will have to try a pawn advance.

56.Kf2!? 1.22/28

[56.Rg7+- 3.15/22 is more deadly. Rd7 is the strong threat. Rc8 57.Rf7]

56...Kg6? 3.97/26 Ponomariov had a clear way to equality with 56...♘a6+!, but the rook ending seemed to be quite harmless to him.

[56...gxf4 57.gxf4 Kg6 58.Ke3+-]

[56...Rd8± 1.22/28]

57.Kg2 Kh5 58.Kh3 Kg6 59.Rc7 Kh5?! 3.52/29 A serious step in the wrong direction. Black king should have helped to slow down the dangerous c-pawn.

[59...Rd8 2.44/21 is a better defense. 60.Rb7 *(60.Rxc3 g4+ 61.Kg2 Rd2+ 62.Kg1 Rxc2-+)* 60...Rh8+ 61.Kg2 Ra8 62.fxg5 fxg5]

60.Rh7+

[60.Rxc3 Rxa7 61.fxg5 Rh7= *(61...fxg5 62.Rb3=; 61...Kxg5 62.Rc5=)*]

60...Kg6 61.Rb7 Rh8+? Once again it was crucial to hurry back with the black king abstaining from the ambition to create counterplay. **62.Kg2** Rb8 would now be deadly. **62...Ra8 63.Rc7** 1.72/27

[⌓63.Kf2 2.90/27]

63...Kh5 64.Kh3? Rook endgames are notoriously difficult, and the fight of two excellent players only confirms this suspicion.

[64.Rxc3 Rxa7 65.Rb3 b1Q 66.Bxb1 *(66.Rxb1 Ra2=)* 66...gxf4=]

64...Kg6? 0.93/24 The final mistake pushes Black over the edge. It was still possible to make a draw with a speedy retreat of the black king.

[Better is 64...Kh6+- 1.65/28 65.fxg5+ *(65.Rxc3 Rxa7 66.Rb3 gxf4=)* 65...Kg6]

65.fxg5 0.24/26

[65.Rxc3?! Rxa7 66.Rb3 Rh7+ 67.Kg2 gxf4 68.gxf4 Rh4=]

[65.Kg2± 0.93/24]

65...Kxg5? 4.16/26 White stays focused until the end.

[65...fxg5= 0.24/26 and Black has nothing to worry. 66.g4 *(66.Rxc3 Rxa7 67.g4 Re7=)* 66...Kf6]

66.Kg2

[66.Rxc3 Rxa7 67.Rb3 Rh7+

(67...Ra2 68.Rb5=) 68.Kg2 Rd7 69.Rxb2 Rd2+ 70.Kf1 Kg4=]

66...Kg4? 6.45/25

[66...f4 2.57/21 67.Bxe4 f5]

67.Bd1+? 1.63/5

[67.Rxc3 Rxa7 68.Rb3 Rd7 69.Rxb2 Rd2+ 70.Kf1 Kxg3 71.Rb3+ Kg4±]

[67.Rg7+ 6.45/25 Kh5 68.g4+ Kh6 69.Rb7]

67...Kg5 68.Bc2!

[68.Rxc3 b1Q *(68...b1B 69.Ra3±)* 69.Bc2 Qa2 70.g4 Rxa7 71.Kf2 Qa5 *(71...Kxg4 72.Ke2 Qd5 73.Ke3 f4+ 74.Ke2 Qd4 75.Bd1 Ra1 76.Rc1 Rxc1 77.Kf1+ Rxd1+ 78.Kg2 Qg1#)* 72.Re3 Qc5 *(72...Kxg4 73.Bd1+ Kf4 74.Re2 e3+ 75.Rxe3 Qc5 76.Kg2 Qxe3 77.Kh1 Qf2 78.Bh5 Ra1+ 79.Bd1 Rxd1#; 72...Qd2+ 73.Re2 e3+ 74.Kf1 Ra1+ 75.Bb1 Rxb1+ 76.Kg2 Qxe2+ 77.Kh3 fxg4+ 78.Kg3 Rg1#)* 73.Bd1 Ra2+ *(73...fxg4 74.Bb3 Kf4 75.Kg2 Qxe3 76.Bc4 Qg3+ 77.Kf1 Ra1+ 78.Ke2 Qh2#; 73...f4 74.Kg2 Qxe3 75.Kf1 Ra2 76.Bc2 f3 77.Bd1 Qf2#)* 74.Be2 fxg4 *(74...f4 75.Kg2 Qxe3 76.Kh1 Qxe2 77.Kg1 Qg2#)* 75.Kg2 Qxe3 76.Kh1 Qxe2 77.Kg1 Qg2#]

68...Kg4? 6.04/24

[68...f4 2.78/25 69.Bxe4 f5]

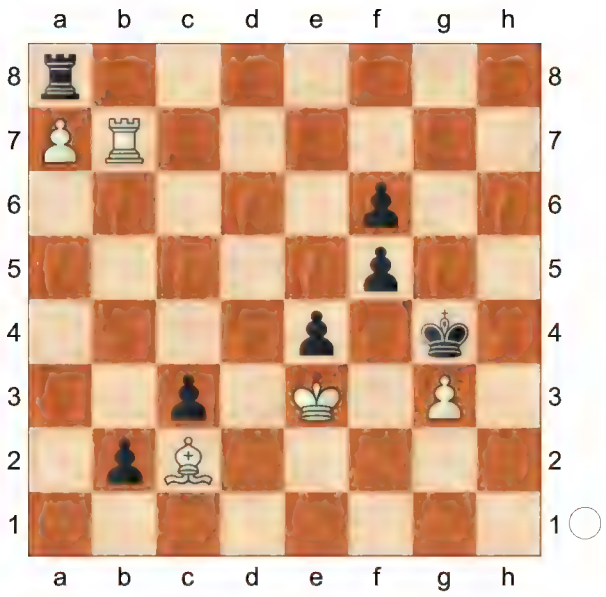
69.Rg7+? 1.23/5

[69.Rxc3 Rxa7 70.Rb3 Rd7=]

[69.Rd7+- 6.04/24 has better winning chances. Rc8 70.Rg7+ Kh5 71.Rb7]

69...Kh5± 70.Kf2 Kh6 71.Rb7 Kg5 72.Rg7+ Kh6 73.Rb7 Kg5 74.Ke3 Kg4

(Diagram)



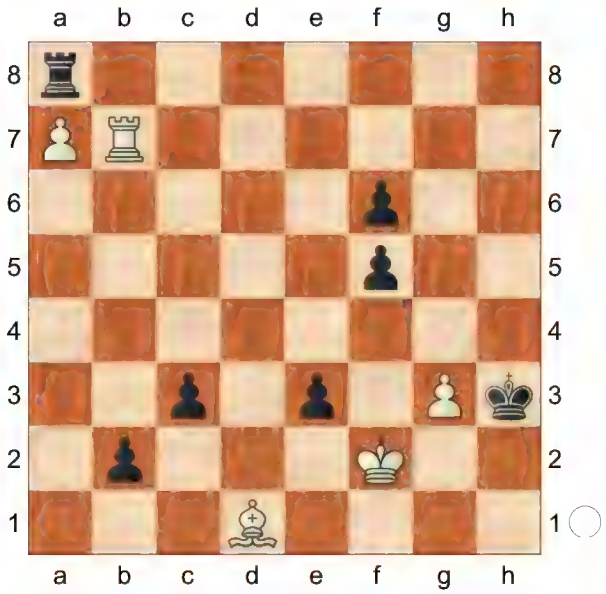
75.Rg7+! Kh3 76.Kf2

[76.Kf4 Kh2 77.Ke3 *(77.Kxf5 e3=)* 77...Kh3+-]

76...Rd8+- Hoping for ...Rd2+. **77.Rb7 Ra8?** 7.92/24

[77...Kg4 3.96/20 78.Rb8 Rd2+ 79.Ke3 Rxc2]

78.Bd1 White is clearly winning. **78...e3+**



79.Kf3!

[Not 79.Kxe3 Rxa7 *(79...Kxg3 80.Rg7+ Kh3 81.Kf3 Kh4 82.Kf4 Kh3 83.Bf3 Rh8 84.a8Q Rh4+ 85.Rg4* Promotion *)* 80.Rb8 Rd7=

(80...Kxg3 81.Rg8+ Kh4 82.Kf4=)]
79...Kh2 80.Bc2
[And not 80.Kxe3 Rxa7 *(80...Kxg3? loses. 81.Rg7+ Kh3 82.Kf3+-)* 81.Rb8 Kg2= *(81...Kxg3 82.Rg8+ Kh2 83.Kf2=)*]
80...e2 81.Rh7+ Kg1 82.Kxe2 Kg2 83.Rg7 Re8+ 84.Kd3 Rc8 85.Rb7 Ra8 86.Kxc3 Discovered Attack
86...Kxg3 87.Kxb2 Kg4 88.Bb3 Threatens to win with Bd5. **88...Kf4!**
89.Bd5 White threatens Rb4+ and mate.
89...Ke5 90.Rd7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.53.
Loses game: --- Black=3
Missed win: White=2 --- Mistake: White=7 Black=19
Inaccurate: White=4 --- OK: White=20 Black=19
Best: White=10 Black=9
Strong: White=6 Black=1
1-0

B33
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2808**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
Sinquefield Cup 3rd (2) 24.08.2015
[Marin,Mihail, MH]

120min/40+(60min+30sec) B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 4 Marin,M Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M" **1...c5** 7 **2.Nf3** 5 **Nc6** 5 **3.d4** 3 **cxd4** 6 ';ruana,F (2 805)-Carlsen,M (2876) NoNorway Chess 3rd 2015 (2) 1-0 There is little wonder that Carlsen avoids the Berlin after the recent defeat by Caruana's hands in Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: ';Caruana,F (2805) -Carlsen,M (2876) Norway Chess 3rd 2015 (2) 1-0 There is little wonder that Carlsen avoids the Berlin after the recent defeat by Caruana's hands in'" There is little wonder that Carlsen avoids the Berlin after the recent defeat by Caruana's hands in Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'There is little wonder that Carlsen avoids the Berlin after the recent defeat by Caruana's hands in" Caruana,F (2805)-Carlsen,M (2876) Norway Chess 3rd 2015 (2) 1-0 **4.Nxd4** 4 **Nf6** 6 **5.Nc3** 6 'By this moment I guess Caruana was asking himself whether it would be a Marshall or a Breyer. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'By this moment I guess Caruana was asking himself whether it would be a Marshall or a Breyer.'" By this moment I guess Caruana was asking himself whether it would be a Marshall or a Breyer. Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'By this moment I guess Caruana was asking himself whether it would be a Marshall or a Breyer." **5...e5** 18 **6.Ndb5** 6 **d6** 6 'None of them in fact! Carlsen chooses the classical Arkhangelsk move order, which has fallen into oblivion long time ago. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'None of them in fact! Carlsen chooses the classical Arkhangelsk move order, which has fallen into oblivion long time ago.'" None of them in fact! Carlsen chooses the classical Arkhangelsk move order, which has fallen into oblivion long time ago. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'None of them in fact! Carlsen chooses the classical Arkhangelsk move order, which has fallen into oblivion long time ago." **7.Bg5** 1:15 'Caruana does not show

himself keen of checking Carlsen's preparation in the main lines and chooses a setup which is mainly played to avoid the Marshall. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Caruana does not show himself keen of checking Carlsen's preparation in the main lines and chooses a setup which is mainly played to avoid the Marshall.'" Caruana does not show himself keen of checking Carlsen's preparation in the main lines and chooses a setup which is mainly played to avoid the Marshall. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Caruana does not show himself keen of checking Carlsen's preparation in the main lines and chooses a setup which is mainly played to avoid the Marshall." **7...a6** 9 'A bit disappointing - the game now enters the Anti-Marshall paths, (I find Alejandro Ramirez' description "An Archangel with Be7" inaccurate, but this is relative, of course.) Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'A bit disappointing - the game now enters the Anti-Marshall paths, (I find Alejandro Ramirez' description "An Archangel with Be7" inaccurate, but this is relative, of course.)'"
A bit disappointing - the game now enters the Anti-Marshall paths, (I find Alejandro Ramirez' description "An Archangel with ♗e7" inaccurate, but this is relative, of course.) Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'A bit disappointing - the game now enters the Anti-Marshall paths, (I find Alejandro Ramirez' description "An Archangel with ♗e7" inaccurate, but this is relative, of course.)" **8.Na3** 2:22 **b5** 1:01 **9.Bxf6** 1:01 'The third most popular continuation after 9.Bd2 and 9.a4. Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'The third most popular continuation after 9.Bd2 and 9.a4.'" The third most popular continuation after 9.♗d2 and 9.a4. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The third most popular continuation after 9.♗d2 and 9.a4." **9...gxf6** 16:21 **10.Nd5** 9:39 **Bg7** 35 ';nsa,V (2535)-Smyslov,V (2600) S Sochi Chigorin Memorial 1974 (9) 0-1 The regrouping initiated with this move reminds me of one of Smyslow's ultra-solid systems in the classical Ruy Lopez Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: ';Jansa,V (2535)-Smyslov,V (2600) Sochi Chigorin Memorial 1974 (9) 0-1 The regrouping initiated with this move reminds me of one of Smyslow's ultra-solid systems in the classical Ruy Lopez'" The regrouping initiated with this move reminds me of one of Smyslow's ultra-solid systems in the classical Ruy Lopez Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'The regrouping initiated with this move reminds me of one of Smyslow's ultra-solid systems in the classical Ruy Lopez" Jansa,V (2535)-Smyslov,V (2600) Sochi Chigorin Memorial 1974 (9) 0-1 **11.Bd3** 5:12 **Ne7** 6:15 'Unlike in Smyslow's game, Black can already regroup with his knight, since there is no pressure on e5. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Unlike in Smyslow's game, Black can already regroup with his knight, since there is no pressure on e5.'" Unlike in Smyslow's game, Black can already regroup with his knight, since there is no pressure on e5. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Unlike in Smyslow's game, Black can already regroup with his knight, since there is no pressure on e5." **12.Nxe7** 1:06 **Qxe7** 32 'This position was seen in five earlier games, which makes Caruana's 30 minute thought a bit surprizing. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'This position was seen in five earlier games, which makes Caruana's 30 minute thought a bit surprizing.'" This position was seen in five earlier games, which

makes Caruana's 30 minute thought a bit surprizing. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'This position was seen in five earlier games, which makes Caruana's 30 minute thought a bit surprizing." **13.c3N** 29:44 **f5↻** 8:03 'Black is one step away from completing his development with ... Rad8, while White is far behind in the process. Besides, he does not have too much space to deal with that. Little wonder that Caruana decided to exchange some pieces. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Black is one step away from completing his development with ... Rad8, while White is far behind in the process. Besides, he does not have too much space to deal with that. Little wonder that Caruana decided to exchange some pieces.'" Black is one step away from completing his development with ...♖ad8, while White is far behind in the process. Besides, he does not have too much space to deal with that. Little wonder that Caruana decided to exchange some pieces. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Black is one step away from completing his development with ...♖ad8, while White is far behind in the process. Besides, he does not have too much space to deal with that. Little wonder that Caruana decided to exchange some pieces." **14.Nc2** 6:30 'Trying to make use of White's best piece - his Spanish bishop. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Trying to make use of White's best piece - his Spanish bishop.'" Trying to make use of White's best piece - his Spanish bishop. Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Trying to make use of White's best piece - his Spanish bishop."

[14.0-0!?]

14...f4N 0.44/17 16:04 'Played after 16 minutes, this is the most principled decision. Allowing an exchange on e6 looks unappealing, while Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Played after 16 minutes, this is the most principled decision. Allowing an exchange on e6 looks unappealing, while'" Played after 16 minutes, this is the most principled decision. Allowing an exchange on e6 looks unappealing, while Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Played after 16 minutes, this is the most principled decision. Allowing an exchange on e6 looks unappealing, while"

[14...Qg5 15.0-0! *(15.Qf3 d5 16.h4 Qf6 17.exf5 e4 18.Qe3 Bh6 19.f4 Qxf5 20.g3 0-0 21.Be2 Qg6 22.0-0-0 f5 23.Rxd5 Qf7 24.Rd6 Bg7 25.h5 Qa7 26.h6 Bf6 27.Qd2 Be7 28.Qd5+ Rf7 29.Rg6+ Kf8* 8...e5 9.f4 exd4 10.cxd4 (2400)-Svrsek,R (2222) European Club Cup Online 2021 (5) 1-0 *)* 15...Bb7 16.f3!+- 0.10/22 *(16.Qf3; 16.a4±* 0.47/24 should be considered. *)* 16...0-0!?= 17.exf5 d5 18.Qc1 Qh4 19.Qe1 Qh6↑ 20.Ne3 Rfe8 21.Ng4 Qb6+! 22.Kh1 h5!± 23.f6! Bxf6± 24.Nh6+ Kf8!? 25.Qg3 Inhibits Bg5. Bg7! 26.Nf5 Qf6 27.a4□]

[14...Qb7= 0.07/21 15.Qf3 *(15.f3 f4 16.Nb4 Bf6 17.Qe2 Bh4+ 18.Kd2 Bd7 19.Nd5 Be6 20.Kc2 Rb8 21.g3 Bxd5 22.exd5 fxg3 23.Qe4 g2 24.Rhg1 Bf6 25.Rxg2 Ke7 26.f4 Rhg8 27.Rag1 Rxg2+ 28.Rxg2 Rh8 29.fxe5 Bxe5* 4.d4 cd4 5.♕d4 a6-Wilfert,E USA-01.Kongress 1857 1-0 *)* 15...0-0 16.Ne3 f4 17.Nd5 Be6 18.g4 Rae8 19.Kf1 f5 20.gxf5 Rxf5 21.Rg1 Rf7 22.Rd1 Qc8 23.Be2 Kh8 24.Kg2 Rg8 B2 Nh3-B32 Re1 Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee 1985]

[14...Bb7 15.exf5 Qg5 16.Ne3 d5 17.0-0 0-0 18.f4 exf4 19.Qg4 Qxg4

20.Nxg4 f6 21.Rxf4 Rfe8 22.a4 Bc6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.Kf2 h5 26.Ne3 Bf8 27.Nd1 Ra4 28.Rxa4 bxa4 29.Be2 11...♕c7 12. ♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2635)-Van der Werra,M (2520) 106/(155) Vlissingen 2008 (3) ½-½]

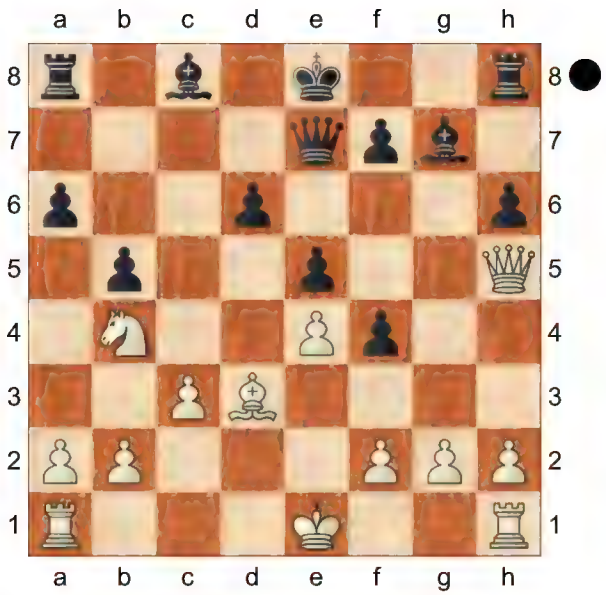
15.Qh5 8:59 'White needs releasing the tension in order to clear the g5-square for the bishop. Delaying this exchange would give Black time to increase his space advantage. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'White needs releasing the tension in order to clear the g5-square for the bishop. Delaying this exchange would give Black time to increase his space advantage.'" White needs releasing the tension in order to clear the g5-square for the bishop. Delaying this exchange would give Black time to increase his space advantage. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White needs releasing the tension in order to clear the g5-square for the bishop. Delaying this exchange would give Black time to increase his space advantage." **15...h6** 0.60/23 15

[15...0-0 'Carlsen thought this was "at least a draw" but actually Black is winning after Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Carlsen thought this was "at least a draw" but actually Black is winning after'" Carlsen thought this was "at least a draw" but actually Black is winning after Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Carlsen thought this was "at least a draw" but actually Black is winning after" 16.0-0-0]

[15...0-0= 0.15/21 deserves consideration.]

16.Nb4± 7:46 Diagram

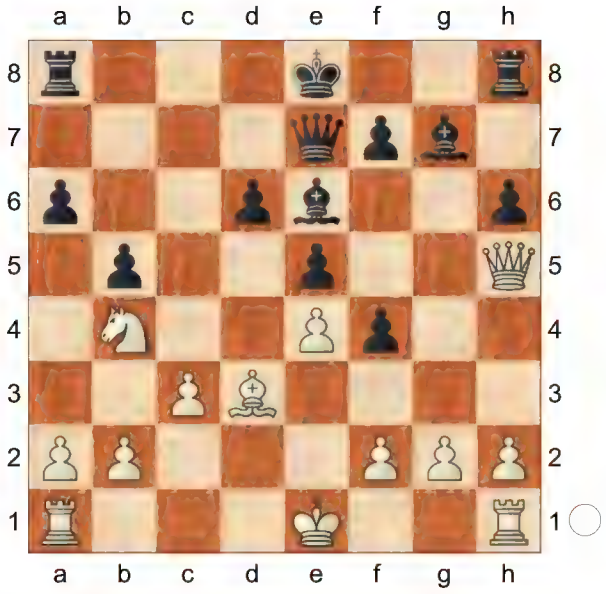
(Diagram)



16...Be6! 1.93/20 4:17 It would be dangerous to delay this thematic move. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'It would be dangerous to delay this thematic move."

[16...Bb7]

[16...Bb7± 0.64/21]



'It would be dangerous to delay this thematic move. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'It would be dangerous to delay this thematic move.'" **17.Nxa6!+-** 1:23 Remove Defender, Decoy **17...0-0** 1:22

[17...Rxa6! 2.91/19 17...0-0 1.76

'with a strong initiative. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'with a strong initiative.'" with a strong initiative. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'with a strong initiative." 18.Bxb5+]

18.Nb4 5:51

[18.Bxb5 d5±]

18...f5 2.29/22 3:08 'This ultra ambitious move fails to keep the a2-bishop out of play after Caruana's active answer. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'This ultra ambitious move fails to keep the a2-bishop out of play after Caruana's active answer.'" This ultra ambitious move fails to keep the a2-bishop out of play after Caruana's active answer. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'This ultra ambitious move fails to keep the a2-bishop out of play after Caruana's active answer."

[18...Rfc8 1.76/17 was called for. 19.0-0 *(19.Bxb5 Rc5+-)* 19...Qd7]

19.0-0! 6:36

[19.exf5!± ΔBf7? Marin,M: '?' 20.Qe2 *(20.Qf3!* -0.24/17 20.Qg4 2.10 *e4!)* 20...d5 Against Be4 21.Bxb5+- 'Ramirez Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Ramirez'" . Black must now prevent 0-0-0. Ramirez Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Ramirez" 'Even with seconds on the clock, it is strange that Caruana refrained from the natural Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Even with seconds on the clock, it is strange that Caruana refrained from the natural'" Even with seconds on the clock, it is strange that Caruana refrained from the natural Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Even with seconds on the clock, it is strange that Caruana refrained from the natural" 21...Qg5± 2.08/23 'reducing Black's attacking potential. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'reducing Black's attacking potential.'" reducing Black's attacking potential. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'reducing Black's attacking potential." *(21...e4±* 1.24/17 is a better defense. *)* 'Ramirez: Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Ramirez:'" Ramirez: Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'Ramirez:" 22.0-0 Qxf5! *(22...e4* Threatens to win with ...f3! *23.f3)* 23.f3]

[Don't take 19.exf5?! Bf7 20.f6 *(20.Qf3 e4±)* 20...Bxf6]

19...fxe4 3:30 **20.Bxe4** 1:05 **Rac8** 2 **21.Rad1** 30 'White tris compensating his space defficit with active piece play. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'White tris compensating his space defficit with active piece play.'" White tris compensating his space defficit with active piece play. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White tris compensating his space defficit with active piece play."

21...Rc4 22:27 **22.Qg6** 1:00 **Rxe4!?** 3:54 'When I saw this move, I thought the bishop will finally reach b6, truly in the spirit of the Arkhangelsk. But my expectations proved wrong... Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'When I saw this move, I thought the bishop will finally reach b6, truly in the spirit of the Arkhangelsk. But my expectations proved wrong...'" When I saw this move, I thought the bishop will finally reach b6, truly in the spirit of the Arkhangelsk. But my expectations proved wrong... Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'When I saw this move, I thought the bishop will finally reach b6, truly in the spirit of the Arkhangelsk. But my expectations proved wrong..."

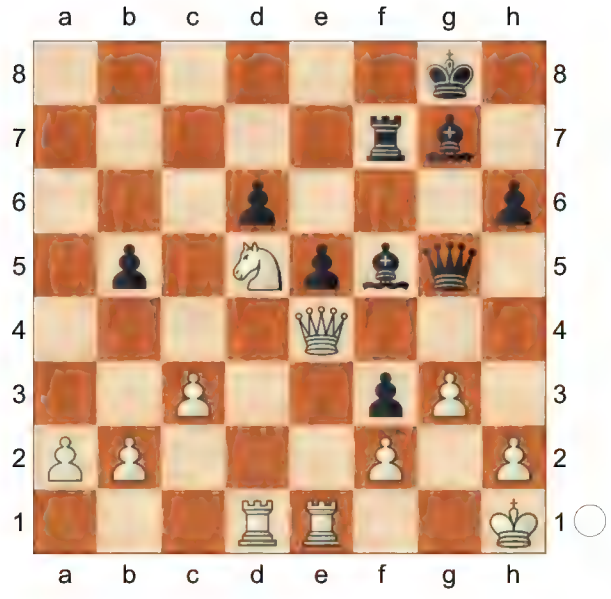
[22...Qf6 0 23.Qh7+ Kf7! And now ... Rh8 would win. 24.Rxd6 Rh8 25.Qg6+ Qxg6≅ 'It is hard to predict what would have happened after Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'It is hard to

predict what would have happened after'" It is hard to predict what would have happened after Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'It is hard to predict what would have happened after" 26.Bxg6+ 'White would retain his strategic advantage against any black move with one exception: Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'White would retain his strategic advantage against any black move with one exception:'" White would retain his strategic advantage against any black move with one exception: Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White would retain his strategic advantage against any black move with one exception:" Kxg6!! 'leading to perpetual check (either Black, after 41.gxf4 or White after Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'leading to perpetual check (either Black, after 41. gxf4 or White after'" leading to perpetual check (either Black, after 41. gxf4 or White after Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'leading to perpetual check (either Black, after 41.gxf4 or White after" 27.Rxe6+ Kf5 28.Rb6= 'But would Carlsen have found it just before the control? Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'But would Carlsen have found it just before the control?'" But would Carlsen have found it just before the control? Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'But would Carlsen have found it just before the control?"]

23.Qxe4 4:26 **f3** 14:28 **24.Nd5** 5:18 [24.gxf3 Rf4 25.Qg6 Rf6±]

24...Qg5 11 **25.g3** 9:41 **Rf7!!** 1:45 ';rlsen,M (2863)-Anand,V (2792) W World Championship 2014 (11) 1-0 The evaluation is not only for the objective merits of the move, but also for the whole king's moving around initiated now and the depth behind it. The king manoeuvre reminds me a bit of the somewhat similar issue in the last game of the return Carlsen-Anand match Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: ';Carlsen,M (2863)-Anand,V (2792) World Championship 2014 (11) 1-0 The evaluation is not only for the objective merits of the move, but also for the whole king's moving around initiated now and the depth behind it. The king manoeuvre reminds me a bit of the somewhat similar issue in the last game of the return Carlsen-Anand match'" The evaluation is not only for the objective merits of the move, but also for the whole king's moving around initiated now and the depth behind it. The king manoeuvre reminds me a bit of the somewhat similar issue in the last game of the return Carlsen-Anand match Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The evaluation is not only for the objective merits of the move, but also for the whole king's moving around initiated now and the depth behind it. The king manoeuvre reminds me a bit of the somewhat similar issue in the last game of the return Carlsen-Anand match" Carlsen,M (2863)-Anand,V (2792) World Championship 2014 (11) 1-0 **26.Kh1** 5:10 **Bh3** 4:20 'There were no reasons to refrain from occupying the concealed square. The bishop defends the queen, making ...g6 an issue already, without fearing Nd4 at all. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'There were no reasons to refrain from occupying the concealed square. The bishop defends the queen, making ... g6 an issue already, without fearing Nd4 at all.'" There were no reasons to refrain from occupying the concealed square. The bishop defends the queen, making ...

g6 an issue already, without fearing ♘d4 at all. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'There were no reasons to refrain from occupying the concealed square. The bishop defends the queen, making ...g6 an issue already, without fearing ♘d4 at all.'' **27.Rfe1** 1:14 'By now, both players were approaching severe time trouble. With jis last move Caruana opens a new front, clearing the a3-square for the queen in order to harass the centralized king. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'By now, both players were approaching severe time trouble. With jis last move Caruana opens a new front, clearing the a3-square for the queen in order to harass the centralized king.''' By now, both players were approaching severe time trouble. With jis last move Caruana opens a new front, clearing the a3-square for the queen in order to harass the centralized king. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'By now, both players were approaching severe time trouble. With jis last move Caruana opens a new front, clearing the a3-square for the queen in order to harass the centralized king.'' **27...Bf5?!** 1:13 Diagram



'Carlsen renews the threat, without realizing that White's queenside play is far from over. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Carlsen renews the threat, without realizing that White's queenside play is far from over.''' Carlsen renews the threat, without realizing that White's queenside play is far from over. Marin, M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Carlsen renews the threat, without realizing that White's queenside play is far from over.'' **28.Qb4** 2:02 'Caruana spent most of his remaining time on this fantastic move, going down to seconds on his clock. White prevents Black's consolidating with . ..a6-a5, endangering the b4-pawn and adding a small tactical detail to the plot. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Caruana spent most of his remaining time on this fantastic move, going down to seconds on his clock. White prevents Black's consolidating with . ..a6-a5, endangering the b4-pawn and adding a small tactical detail to the plot.''' Caruana spent most of his remaining time on this fantastic move, going down to seconds on his clock. White prevents Black's consolidating with ...a6-a5, endangering the b4-pawn and adding a small tactical detail to the plot. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Caruana spent most of his remaining time on this fantastic move, going down to seconds on his clock. White prevents Black's consolidating with ...a6-a5, endangering the b4-pawn and adding a small tactical detail to the plot.''

[Not 28.Qxf3 Bg4 29.Qe3 Qh5±] **28...Bf8!?** 4:23 'Typical for Carlsen's lack of pre-concepts. He does not mind returning with his king now that there was some danger for it. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Typical for Carlsen's lack of

pre-concepts. He does not mind returning with his king now that there was some danger for it.'" Typical for Carlsen's lack of pre-concepts. He does not mind returning with his king now that there was some danger for it. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Typical for Carlsen's lack of pre-concepts. He does not mind returning with his king now that there was some danger for it." **29.Qxb5?!** 9 'Too slow. Besides, White dismantles his potential battery along the a2-g8 diagonal. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Too slow. Besides, White dismantles his potential battery along the a2-g8 diagonal.'" . White is clearly winning. Too slow. Besides, White dismantles his potential battery along the a2-g8 diagonal. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Too slow. Besides, White dismantles his potential battery along the a2-g8 diagonal." **29...h5?!⊕** 51 Marin,M: '?!"Carlsen still had a few minutes left, but failed to remain consequent to his curious king manoeuvre. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Carlsen still had a few minutes left, but failed to remain consequent to his curious king manoeuvre.'" Carlsen still had a few minutes left, but failed to remain consequent to his curious king manoeuvre. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Carlsen still had a few minutes left, but failed to remain consequent to his curious king manoeuvre." **30.Ne3!** 28 Marin,M: '!"Suddenly, White's queenside play strongly interfers with Black's planned ...g6. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Suddenly, White's queenside play strongly interfers with Black's planned ... g6.'" Suddenly, White's queenside play strongly interfers with Black's planned ... g6. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Suddenly, White's queenside play strongly interfers with Black's planned ...g6." **30...Bh3** 2:15 'Carlsen spent most of his remaining time on this move, joining his opponent for the blitz mode. Marin, Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'Carlsen spent most of his remaining time on this move, joining his opponent for the blitz mode.'" Carlsen spent most of his remaining time on this move, joining his opponent for the blitz mode. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'Carlsen spent most of his remaining time on this move, joining his opponent for the blitz mode." **31.Qc4** 8 **Qg6** 7 **32.a4** 1 **Kh8** 5 **33.Qh4!** 41 'The clue. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin,M: 'The clue.'" The clue. Marin,M: 'Marin,Mihail: 'The clue." **33...Be6** 6 **34.a5** 3 **e4** 11 **35.Qd8** 1 **Kh7** 1:03 **36.a6** 1 **Bh6** 1 **37.Qb6±** 2 'White has achieved stability on light squares, but needs to be careful with his major piece regrouping, something Caruana failed to do under the time pressure. Marin,Mihail: 'Marin, M: 'White has achieved stability on light squares, but needs to be careful with his major piece regrouping, something Caruana failed to do under the time pressure.'" White has achieved stability on light squares, but needs to be careful with his major piece regrouping, something Caruana failed to do under the time pressure. Marin,M: 'Marin, Mihail: 'White has achieved stability on light squares, but needs to be careful with his major piece regrouping, something Caruana failed to do under the time pressure." **37...h4** 6 **38.g4** 3 **Bxg4** 4 **39.Rg1** 1 **Bxe3** 4 Diagram

(Diagram)

40.Qxe3?? 0 White took control after the

opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.41.
Mistake: ---
Black=3
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=11
Black=2
Brilliant: White=1 ---
. Loss on time!?
0-1

B33
□ **Azarov,Sergei Nikolaevich 2585**
■ **Gelfand,Boris 2655**
EU-ch 20th Skopje (5) 22.03.2019
[Krasenkow,Michal, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Roiz,M: 'Obviously, this setup is now White's main weapon in the 7.Nd5 line.'
[9.c4 was popular a long time ago.]
9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7
12.Bd2 This move became popular after the recent World Championship match. It was examined (among others) in my survey in CBM 188. **12...a6**
[12...f5 13.a5
A) 13...Nf6 14.Be3 *(14.c4!?)* 14...Bd7! 15.Nxa7 f4 16.Bb6 1/2 (26) Huschenbeth,N (2571)-Hracek,Z (2582) Le Castella 2018 Qb8 17.Nb5 Nc7 would now be deadly. f3! 18.gxf3 Bd8!≅ Dodges Nc7;
B) 13...f4 14.Re1 Nf6 15.Bd3 f3?! 1.51/19 *(15...Ng4!∞; 15...Bg4±* 0.47/24 *16.f3 Bd7)* 16.Qxf3± Ng4 17.Qe4 Bf5 18.Qxf5! Rxf5 19.Bxf5 a6 20.Nxd6 Qxd6 21.Bxg4 Hoping for Be6+. Qxd5 22.Bc3± 1-0 (40) So,W (2765)-Sadzikowski, D (2534) Caleta 2019
C) 13...a6 14.Na3 - 12...f5 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5 16.Nb6 Rb8 17.f4 exf3 18.Bxf3
C1) 18...g5?! 0.79/21 18...Bf6 0.30 19.c4 f4 1.21/18 *(19...Nd7±* 0.66/16 *)* 20.Bc3± Bf5 21.c5! Strongly threatening Bxe5. Nxf3+ 22.Qxf3 dxc5 23.Rad1± 1/2 (38) Caruana,F (2832)-Carlsen,M (2835) London 2018 Mega2018 Update 58 [Krasenkow,Michal];
C2) 18...Bg5 19.c4 Qf6 1/2 (61) Ter Sahakyan,S (2590)-Gledura,B (2630) Skopje MKD 2019 20.c5↑;
C3) 18...f4 was more accurate Δ19.c4 Bf6! 20.Bxf4 *(20.Bc3 Bf5)* 20...Nxf3+! 21.Qxf3 Bd4+! 22.Kh1 Bxb2 23.Rae1 Qg3 is the strong threat. Be5∞ 24.Qe3 Qf6 S.Grigoriants]

13.Na3 White has an edge. **13...a5!?** Preventing a4-a5.

[13...f5 14.f4 -0.05/23 *(14.a5* - 12...f5*; 14.a5±* 0.32/18 is more appropriate. *)* 14...exf4= 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Kh1 Bf6 17.c3 g5 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Nc4 1-0 (29) Santos Ruiz,M (2505)-Fier,A (2544) Amsterdam 2018 Qf6∞]

14.f4

[Roiz,M: '2 years ago Boris faced some problems after' 14.Nc4 b6 15.f4 Roiz,M: ', but Black's position seems perfectly playable, as we can see in the notes to Oparin,G (2602)-Gelfand,B (2697) Moscow RUS 2017 [Roiz,M]' Ba6 *(15...Bb7!?; 15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Rc8 25.Bc6 Ne5 26.b5 Ng4 27.Rae1 Be5 28.h3 Nxf2 29.Qxf2 Bxc3 30.Re6* Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/ 135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1 *)* 16.Ne3 Bb7?! 0.74/19 *(16...Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Re8∞; 16...Bxe2*= 0.29/21 *17.Qxe2 Re8)* 17.Bc3 0.29/24 *(*Better is *17.Bb5±* 0.74/19 *)* 17...g6 Inhibits Nf5. 18.Bb5± 1-0 (53) Oparin, G (2602)-Gelfand,B (2697) Moscow 2017]

[14.c3!? f5 15.f4 Roiz,M: 'transposes to Esipenko,A (2603)-Gelfand,B (2655) Skopje MKD 2019 [Roiz,M]' Nc5?! 0.65/20 *(15...exf4!? 16.Bxf4 g5; 15...Bf6*= 0.21/23 *)* 16.Be3± exf4 17.Bxc5! dxc5 18.Rxf4 0.35/24 *(18.Bb5±* 0.93/22 *)* 18...Bd6± 19.Rf3 Qh4 20.Rh3 Qe7 21.Nc4± 1-0 (42) Esipenko,A (2603)-Gelfand,B (2655) Skopje MKD 2019]

14...exf4 Roiz,M: 'This is a slight concession, since White's bishop is now placed more actively, and the Pd6 is under pressure.'

[14...f5!? 15.Kh1 Bf6 , taking control of the key e5-spot. The position that arises after 16.Bb5 0.08/22 *(16.Nc4±* 0.50/18 *)* 16...exf4= 17.Bxf4 Be5! leads to a complex strategic struggle.]

[The only preceding correspondence game saw 14...Nb6!? 15.c4 Bf6 16.Nb5 Bd7 17.Qc2 -0.40/22 *(17.Nxd6*= 0.00/22 *Bxa4 18.Rxa4 Qxd6 19.Ra3)* 17...exf4∓ 18.Bxf4 Bxb5 19.axb5 Rc8 20.Rad1 g6 Black was solid in Anokhin,Y - Manaenkov,V ICCF 2015]

15.Bxf4 Nc5 Roiz,M: 'A novelty. Boris a takes major risk, since the Pd6 is very vulnerable now.' Black uses the c5 square but e5 was a more important spot.

[15...Ne5!? 16.Nc4 0.03/22 *(16.Kh1±* 0.46/23 feels stronger. *)* 16...Nxc4= 17.Bxc4 Bf6]

[15...f5!? Δ16.Nc4 Nb6]

[More to the point was 15...Bf6 16.c3 *(16.Nc4 Ne5 17.Bxe5 dxe5 18.Qd3 Bd7 19.Qe4 b5 20.Bd3 g6⇄)* 16...Be5 17.Bb5 Bxf4 18.Rxf4 Ne5 The strong Ne5 compensates the structural drawbacks. For instance, 19.Qd4 Bd7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.Nb5 f5⇄]

16.Nb5 Roiz,M: 'The most challenging.' This knight will be traded here. It was better for White to keep it.

[16.c3!?

A) 16...f5 0.72/18 16...Bd7 0.36 17.Bb5!? 0.21/12 *(17.Be3!±* 0.72/18 *)*;

B) 16...Bd7= 0.26/22;

C) 16...Ne4 0.80/17

17.Nc4!±]

[The other natural continuation was 16.Bb5 , but this looks somewhat slow, so after Bd7 17.c3 f5 18.Be3 *(18.Qc2 g6 19.Rae1 Re8⇄)* 18...Ne4 19.Qd3 Bg5 20.Bxg5 Nxg5 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Rae1 Against Rae8 g6= Black manages to consolidate and cover his weaknesses.]

16...Ne4N Roiz,M: 'This decision was fully justified in the game, but the knight prematurely enters the centre.'

[Roiz,M: 'After' 16...f5!? 17.Be3 *(17.Kh1 b6 18.Nd4 Bf6 19.Nc6 Qc7 20.c3 Bd7* Sveshnikov 7.Nd5-Sveshnikov 7. Nd5 #24 *)* 17...Ne4 18.Bd3 Bd7 19.Nd4± Black's position remains worse, but playable.]

17.Ra3 0.25/21 Roiz,M: '?!'. White is more active.

[Roiz,M: 'For some reason Sergei rejects the most natural' 17.Bf3! Roiz,M: ', that would have posed Boris serious problems:'

A) 17...f5 18.Bxe4 *(18.Qe2 Bd7 19.Bxe4 fxe4 20.Qxe4 Bxb5 21.axb5 Bf6! 22.Rab1±)* 18...fxe4 19.Qd4± Dodges Qb6;

B) 17...Ng5 18.Kh1± Bf5 Repels Qd3 19.Rc1 Re8 1.30/17 *(⌓19...Qd7* 0.79/18 *)* 20.c4±]

[17.Bf3± 0.63/24 f5 18.Bxe4 fxe4 19.Qe2]

17...Bd7 18.Kh1 Roiz,M: 'This is again too slow.'

[18.Nd4?! Bf6]

[More consistent was 18.Raf3 f5 19.Nd4 g6 20.Bb5 Bf6 21.Ne6 Bxe6 22.dxe6 , and the strong Pe6 offers White some initiative.]

18...Bxb5 19.Bxb5 f5 Still, White keeps initiative due to his bishop pair. **20.Raf3**

[The more aggressive 20.g4 is well met by Bg5! 21.Qe1 Bxf4 22.Rxf4 Qf6 23.Raf3 Qxb2⇄]

20...Bf6 0.70/21

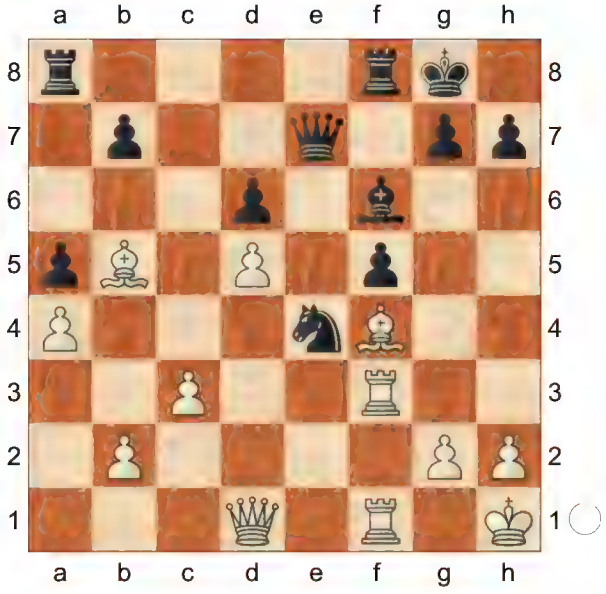
[20...Bg5! 21.Bd3 g6 22.g4 Threatens to win with gxf5. Qe7 23.gxf5 Rxf5 24.Bxg5 Rxg5=]

[20...Bg5!= 0.08/19]

21.c3 0.17/22

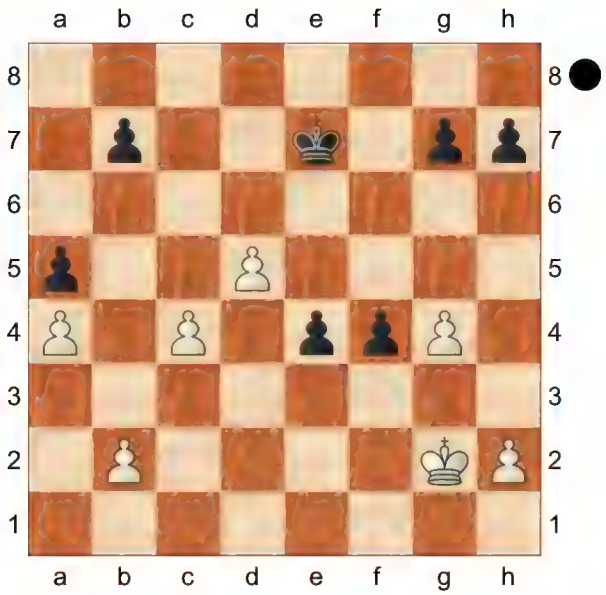
[21.g4!± 0.70/21]

21...Qe7=



Roiz,M: 'Black managed to regroup his forces and connect his rooks, so the

worst is behind him.' **22.g4!** Roiz,M: '!?' Roiz,M: 'This is the best practical attempt to fight for the initiative.'
22...Be5!
[22...fxg4? 0.81/19 22...Be5 0.25 23.Re3]
[Reject 22...fxg4?! 23.Re3 g5 *(23...h5? 24.Qc2+-)* 24.Qxg4+-]
23.Bxe5 dxe5 24.Bd3 Roiz,M: 'Sergei reasonably refuses to take the pawn.'
[Both 24.gxf5 Nd6]
[and 24.Rxf5 And now d6! would win. Nd6 25.Rxf8+ Rxf8 would have offered Black full compensation for a pawn due to the superiority of his knight over the bishop.]
24...Qc5 25.Bxe4 Roiz,M: 'This practically forces a draw.' Too early.
[Roiz,M: 'Deserving of serious attention is' 25.Bc2 Roiz,M: '!?' Roiz, M: 'though after' Rad8 26.gxf5 Nf6! 27.Bb3± e4 28.Rg3 Kh8 29.Qe2 Rfe8 Black seems to have full compensation, at least from a human point of view.]
[25.Bc2 seems wilder. Rad8 26.gxf5 Nf6 27.Bb3]
25...fxe4 26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.Rxf8+ Kxf8 Endgame. KQ-KQ **28.Kg2** Inhibits Qf2+. **28...Qe3** Roiz,M: '=' Roiz, M: 'White's pawn structure is preferable, but Black's queen is much more active.'
29.Qf1+ Ke7 30.Qf2 Repels Qd2
[30.Qf5= was possible too.]
30...Qf4 31.Qxf4 -0.55/22 The pawn endgame is drawish but White has no better alternative.
[31.Qc5+= 0.00/32 Kf7 32.Qc7+ Kg6 33.Qd6+ Kg5 34.Qe7+ Kh6 35.Qh4+ Kg6 36.d6 *(36.Qh5+ Kf6=)*]
31...exf4 KP-KP **32.c4** -1.15/31
[32.g5∓ -0.54/29]



Roiz,M: 'Black's king cannot advance too far, so a draw is unavoidable now.'
32...Kd6 -0.54/33
[32...g5!∓ -1.15/31 33.Kf1 e3]
33.Kf2 -1.20/34
[White should play 33.g5∓ -0.54/33]
33...Ke5 -0.53/29
[33...e3+∓ -1.20/34 34.Kf3 Kc5]
34.Ke2 h6 35.Kf2 g6 36.Ke2 h5 -0.15/18
[Don't blunder 36...Kd4? 37.d6+-]
[36...Kd6∓ -0.53/38 is superior.]
37.gxh5 gxh5 38.Kf2
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise) .
Mistake: White=5
Black=4
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=2
OK: White=11
Black=4
Best: White=1 ---
Strong: ---
Black=1
½-½

B33

□ **Oparin,Grigoriy** **2602**
■ **Gelfand,Boris** **2697**
Nutcracker Rapid 2017 (2.2) 23.12.2017
[Roiz,M, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Bd2 Grigoriy was satisfied with what he obtained after the opening in the first game, so he doesn't avoid his opponent's preparation.
12...a6 13.Na3 White is slightly better.
13...a5! Boris comes up with a new concept: Black immediately gives up control over the b5-spot, but White's q-side play is slowed. **14.Nc4 b6 15.f4** This is the most effective way of activating White's pieces. **15...Ba6N** The exchange of light-squared bishops favors White in this situation.
[Black should have either played 15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Nc5 17.c3 Re8= *(17...f5 18.Be3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Bg5 20.Bd4 g6 21.b4 Bxc4 22.Bxc4 Nd7 23.Bb5 Bf6 24.Bf2 Rc8 25.Bc6 Ne5 26.b5 Ng4 27.Rae1 Be5 28.h3 Nxf2 29.Qxf2 Bxc3 30.Re6 Bb4 31.Kh1 f4 32.Re4* Fandino,R (2645)-4.Bc6 bc6 5.00 Bg7 6.Re1 f6 (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1 *Bc5 33.Qe2 Qg5 34.Re7 Be3 35.Re6 Rc7 36.Qg4 Qxg4 37.hxg4 Bc5 38.Kh2 g5 39.Rf3 Rcf7 40.Be8 Rf6 41.Bh5 Bd4 42.Rd3 Be5 43.Kg1 Rc8 44.Rd1 Kf8 45.Kf2 Rc2+ 46.Kf3 Rc3+ 47.Kf2* Fandino,R (2645)-4.♗c6 bc6 5.00 ♗g7 6.♖e (2690) 65/135 Groningen 1995 (11.9) 0-1 *)*]
[or 15...f5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Be3 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Bf6=]
16.Ne3! The knight is heading for f5 now. **16...Bb7** Black is weak on the light squares
[16...exf4 wouldn't solve Black's problems: 17.Nf5 Bxa6! is the strong threat. Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Bf6 19.Rxf4 Re8 20.Qh5↑]
17.Bc3 0.23/21 The bishop is somewhat misplaced now.
[Better was 17.Bb5 Nc5 18.Ra3! Ne4 19.Nf5 Nxd2 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Qxd2 f6 22.f5± , and Black is doomed to passive defence.]
[17.Bb5± 0.63/22]
17...g6 This natural move turns out to be a loss of time.
[Instead, the energetic 17...Rc8! 18.Nf5 *(18.Bg4* -0.08/21 18.Nf5 0.38 *Rxc3! 19.bxc3 Nc5!⩱)* 18...g6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7⇄ would offer Black decent counter-play.]
18.Bb5 Ba6 19.Bxd7?! -0.09/22 The first step in the wrong direction - Black's light-squared bishop is becoming powerful.
[More natural was 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Ng4 Nxg4 22.Qxg4 f5! 23.Qe2 Ra7! 24.Rae1 Bf6 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.c3!± White is better due to his control of the e-file. Prevents Qd4+]
[19.Bxa6!± 0.59/19 Rxa6 20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Ng4]
19...Qxd7= 20.Rf3 The rook is now placed somewhat awkwardly.
[Possible was 20.Re1!?
A) 20...exf4? 2.01/21 20...Qc7 -0.25 21.Ng4 f6 22.Re6+-;
B) Nothing special is promised by 20...Rae8 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Bxe5 Bb4 23.c3 Rxe5 24.cxb4 axb4

25.Qd4 Rfe8! 26.Qxb6 Bb7 27.Kf2= -0.41/21 *(27.Qa7= 0.00/24)*; **C)** 20...Qc7 21.Kh1 -0.37/24 *(21.Qf3= 0.02/15)* 21...f5 0.00/26 *(21...Bh4!∓ -0.37/24* is more appropriate. *)* 22.fxe5= dxe5 23.d6! Bxd6 24.Nd5 Qf7 25.Bxe5 Bxe5 26.Rxe5= , maintaining the balance.]

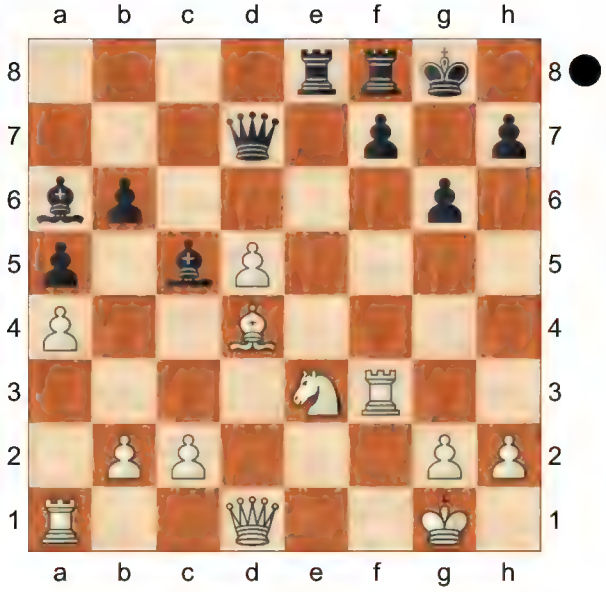
20...Rae8 Black's pieces are now mostly concentrated on the k-side, but the files are still closed.

[Stronger seems 20...f5! 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Bxe5 Rae8 23.d6 Bg5 24.Qd5+ Rf7 , obtaining a powerful initiative, which fully compensates the pawn, to say the least.]

21.fxe5? After this unsuccessful decision Boris' idea is fully justified.

[More to the point was 21.f5! aiming for f6. Bg5 22.Qe1 , and White should be OK due to his space advantage on the k-side.]

21...dxe5 22.Bxe5 Bc5 This pair of bishops is nice. **23.Bd4**



Be2! Possibly, this nice tactical shot was overlooked by Grigoriy. Deflection

24.Qxe2 Bxd4 25.c3 Bc5∓ Now Black is firmly in control. White's extra pawn only has symbolic value here. **26.Kf1?** -2.86/22

[It was necessary to play 26.Kh1 Re4 27.Qd3 Rfe8

A) Even worse is 28.Nc4? -2.35/23 28.Nc2 -0.65 Qg4! 29.h3 Qh4 30.Nd2 -3.11/20 *(⌓30.b4* -1.73/19 *axb4 31.cxb4 Bxb4 32.Nxb6 Re1+ 33.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 34.Kh2)* 30...Re1+-+ 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Rf1 *(32.Kh2 Qg5-+)* 32...Qf2-+ Prevents Qf3.;

B) 28.Nc2! R8e5 29.Rd1 -0.83/18 *(29.b4!∓* -0.39/21 *axb4 30.cxb4 Bxb4 31.Nxb4 Rxb4 32.Raf1)* 29...Qxa4∓ , even though Black managed to regain the pawn and keep White under strong pressure.]

[26.Kh1∓ -0.42/24]

26...Re5? 0.44/19

[Had Boris put his rook on another spot, White's position would be absolutely hopeless: 26...Re4 27.Qd3 Rfe8! 28.Re1 Qe7 Strongly threatening ...Qg5! 29.d6 Bxd6-+]

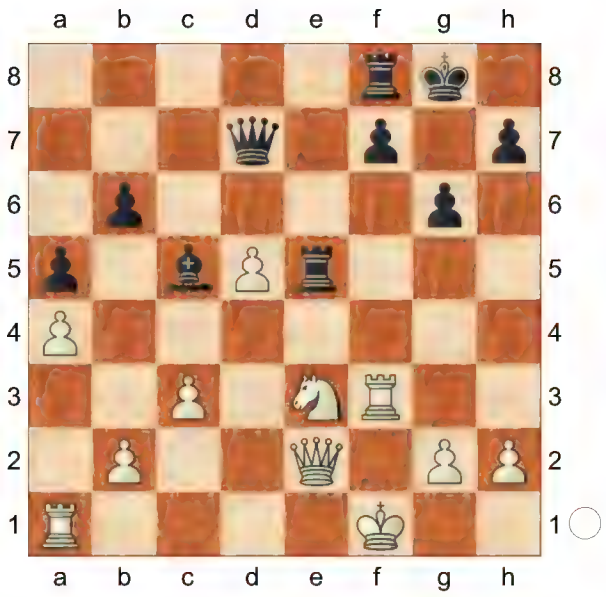
[26...Re4-+ -2.86/22 27.Qd2 Rfe8 *(27...Rxa4 28.Rxa4 Qxa4 29.d6∓)*]

(Diagram)

Alas, this blunder dramatically changes the route of the game. **27.Ng4!±** This is the point! White manages to liquidate into a better endgame now. **27...Rxe2 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Nxd7 Rfe8 30.Nxc5 bxc5** Endgame. KRR-KRR **31.Rf2 R2e4** Of course, Black shouldn't exchange his active rook. **32.d6 Rd8** 0.98/26

[32...f5± 0.56/25]

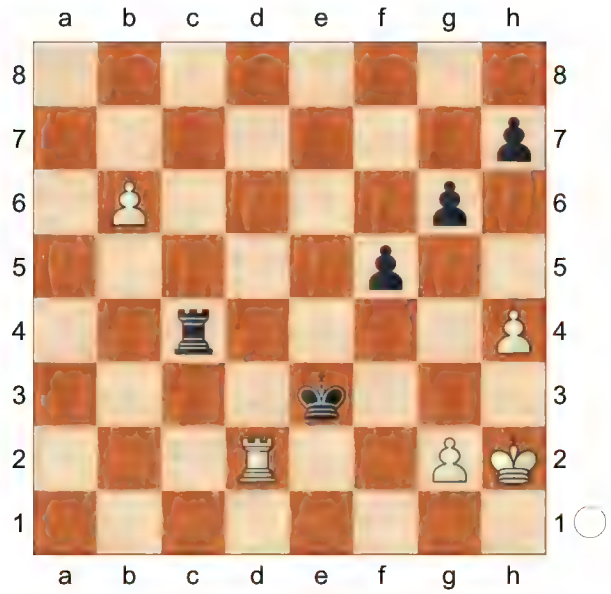
33.Rd1!± A correct decision - White



shouldn't be greedy!
[Less precise was 33.Rd2 Kf6 34.Rd5 Rf4+ 35.Kg1 Rc4 36.d7 Black must now prevent Re1. Ke6 37.Rd2 Re4± Prevents Re1]
33...Rxa4 34.Rd5! Despite the material balance, Black's position is difficult - the Pd6 is very strong, and the q-side pawns are very weak. White is more active. **34...Re4?** 2.19/20 White stays focused until the end.
[34...f5! 35.Rfd2! Rc4 36.d7 Kf6 37.Re2 Rf4+! 38.Ke1 And now Re8! would win. a4! 39.Kd2 Kf7 Prevents Re8. 40.Kd3 c4+ 41.Kd2±]
[34...f5± 0.58/21]
35.Rfd2!+-
[35.Rxc5 Rxd6 36.g3 Ra4=]
35...Re6 36.Rxc5 Rexd6 2.62/21 Another mistake, that makes GM Oparin's task much easier.
[Correct was 36...Rf6+ 37.Ke1 d7 would now be deadly. Re6+ 38.Re2 0.95/20 *(*White should play *38.Kd1*+- 1.76/25 *Rexd6 39.Rxd6 Rxd6+ 40.Kc1)* 38...Rexd6± 39.Rxa5 Rd1+ 40.Kf2 R8d6± with 4 rooks on the board, it would be difficult for White to advance his passers.]
[⌓36...Rf6+ 1.71/27 37.Ke1 Re6+ 38.Kd1 Rexd6 39.Rxd6 Rxd6+ 40.Kc2 Rf6]
37.Rxd6 Rxd6 38.Rxa5 KR-KR
38...Rd2 39.b4 The passers should decide the game. **39...f5?** 4.57/21
[39...Rb2 2.35/21 40.h4 f5 41.Ra7+ Kh6]
40.c4
[There was also nothing wrong with 40.Ra7+ Kf6 41.Rxh7+-]
40...Kf6 41.b5 Rc2 3.43/20
[41...Rb2 2.29/23 was called for. 42.c5 Ke6]
42.Ra6+ Ke5 43.Rc6 Kd4 Black's pieces are very active, but it's too late... **44.b6 Rb2** 5.31/20
[44...Ke3

45.g3!+- wouldn't change anything.]
[44...Ke3 3.57/16 might work better. 45.Re6+ Kd4]
45.h4 White is clearly winning.
[Simpler was 45.c5 Ke3 46.Re6+ Kd4 47.Re2! Rb5 48.Rc2+-]
45...Ke3 46.Kg1 Kf4
[The best practical chance was 46...Rb1+ 47.Kh2 Kf2! 48.Re6!

(48.c5? 0.00/53 48.Rd6 4.75 *Rg1!=)* 48...Rb4 , and then only 49.Rd6! wins: Rxc4 50.Rd2+ Ke3



51.Rb2! Hoping for b7. Rc8 52.b7 Rb8 53.Kg3 Threatens to win with Rb3+. Ke4? 6.18/23 *(53...h6* 3.80/20 *54.h5 g5)* 54.Re2++- Kd5 55.Re7+-]

47.Kh2 Kg4 48.c5 f4 49.Rf6 Rb5 50.Rf8 f3 51.gxf3+ Kxh4 52.Rf4+ Kg5 53.Rc4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.52.
Loses game: White=1 Black=1
Missed win: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=2 Black=5
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=3
OK: White=15 Black=14
Best: White=5 Black=3
Strong: White=2 ---
Brilliant: White=1 ---

1-0

B33

□ **Oparin,Grigoriy 2602**
■ **Gelfand,Boris 2697**

Nutcracker Classical 2017 (3.2) 21.12.17
[Roiz,M, MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 An old, well-forgotten line. I suppose it was deeply analyzed by Grigoriy just before the game. **9...Be7 10.Be2** A new move for our PGN Archive, though it is by far the most common.

[A long time ago White managed to claim an advantage after 10.Be3 a6 *(*Black's best option seems to be *10...Nd7! 11.Qd2 a6 12.Na3 f5 13.f3 0-0 14.Nc4 b6⇄* Borisek,J - Wang,Y Mallorca 2004 *)* 11.Na3 Bf5 12.Nc4 Nd7 13.a5 0-0 14.Be2± Ganguly,S (2574)-Ris,R (2336) Amsterdam 2004 [Fed]]

10...0-0 11.0-0 Nd7

[Worth attention is 11...f5!? 12.f4 Nd7 13.fxe5 *(13.Kh1* might transpose to Nakamura - Gelfand, see below. *)* 13...Nxe5 14.Be3 a6 15.Nd4 Smirnov,I - Lefebvre,H Cappelle-la- Grande 2009]

12.Bd2 A novelty. This modest-looking move hardly poses Black any problems, but it leads to a complex strategic struggle.

[A long time ago Boris had a successful game in this line: 12.Kh1
A) 12...a6 13.Na3 f5 *(13...b6 14.a5 Bb7 15.axb6 Nxb6 16.c4)* 14.f4 is just a transposition.;
B) 12...f5 13.f4 a6 14.Na3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Qd2 0.11/13 *(*Deserving some attention is *16.Bxe5!? dxe5 17.Nc4 Bd6*

18.a5 , and the d-passer offers White interesting play.*;*
White should play *16.Bxe5±* 0.72/12 *dxe5 17.Nc4)* 16...Bd7 17.Qb4 Rb8 18.c4 a5 19.Qb3 Ng6 20.Be3 b6⇄ Black was able to solve all his problems and later managed to outplay his strong opponent in Nakamura,H - Gelfand, B London 2012]

12...Nf6 Locking the f-pawn looks like a slight concession, but Boris manages to slow down White's initiative as well.

[Worth attention is 12...a6!? 13.Na3 a5 , as Boris played in the Rapid game. *(*Possible is also *13...f5 14.a5 e4 15.Nc4 Ne5! 16.Nb6 Rb8*
Even though White manages to fix a favourable pawn structure on the q-side, the position seems unclear: Black's counter-attack shouldn't be underestimated. *)*]

13.Be3

[The other way of protecting the Pd5 was: 13.c4 Ne4 14.Be3 a6 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bf5! An important move, covering the b1-spot. Prevents Rb1. 17.Qb3 Bg5! 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Qxb7 Be4⇄ with tense play.]

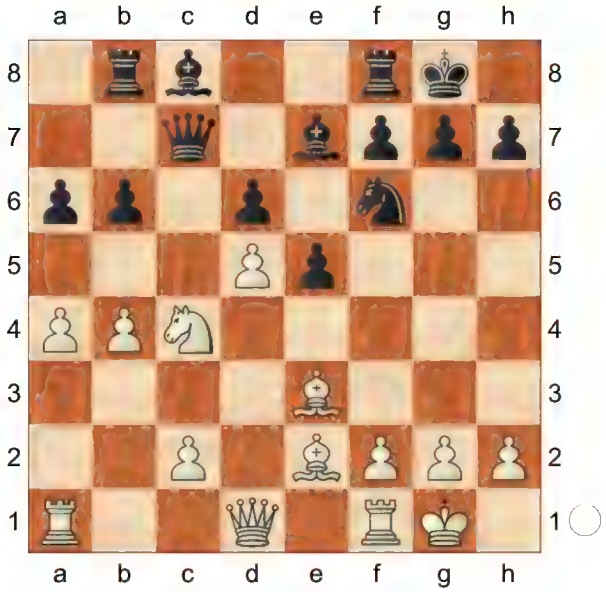
13...a6 14.Na3 This is the usual spot for the knight in the 9.a4 line. **14...Rb8**

15.b4

[Black's idea was meeting the natural 15.Nc4 -0.24/11 15.b4 0.46 with b5! 16.axb5 Rxb5 , winning the Pd5. In that case White should continue 17.Bd2 Nxd5 18.Ba5 Qd7 19.Ne3 Nxe3 20.Bxb5 , inviting some complications. Of course, Black is doing well here.]

15...a5 I do not trust this move - Black gives up control over the b5-spot, so his position becomes somewhat shaky.

[Dubious is 15...b6?! 16.Nc4 Qc7



17.a5! bxa5 18.bxa5↑]

[However, the natural 15...Ne4! was more to the point: 16.Nc4 *(16.Qe1 Bg5!⇄)* 16...Nc3 17.Qd2 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 b6

A) 19.a5 b5! 20.Nb6 f5! 21.f4 Bf6 ...exf4 is the strong threat. 22.Rac1 -0.19/18 *(22.Rad1* 0.19/21 deserves consideration. *)* 22...exf4= 23.Bxf4 g5⇄;

B) 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 b5 21.Na5 aiming for Nc6. Bd7 22.axb5 axb5= , and Black manages to cover his weaknesses.]

16.c3! Grigoriy reasonably keeps the tension.

[The alternative - 16.bxa5 Qxa5 17.Nb5 Bd7 18.c4 Rfc8⇄ wasn't as promising, since White's pawn structure on the q-side isn't perfect.]

16...Bf5 17.Qb3 Bg4 0.93/21 Boris provokes the f2-f3 advance in order to open-up the e-file.

[Too slow was 17...Bg6 1.02/23 17...Ng4 0.52 18.Rad1 0.65/24 *(*Better is *18.Rfd1±* 1.02/23 *)*

18...Nd7± 19.Bb5 f5

20.f4!± , and White is firmly in control.]

[17...Ng4± 0.53/19 is more appropriate.]

18.f3 0.49/23

[18.Bb5!?]

[18.Bb5± 0.93/21]

18...Bh5 19.Rad1?! 0.45/19 After this inaccurate move GM Gelfand's idea is fully justified.

[Instead, the prophylactic 19.Ra2! e4 20.f4 Bxe2 21.Rxe2 Ng4 22.Bd4 f5 0.90/21 *(22...Bf6!±* 0.45/21 *)* 23.Nb5± would have offered White a long-term positional advantage, since Black's counter-attacking abilities are limited.]

[19.Bd3± 0.82/25]

19...e4± 20.Nc4 b6 21.Nd2 This is a good sign for Boris: White is switching to defensive measures. **21...exf3**

[Possible was also 21...Qc7 22.Bd4 exf3 23.Bxf3 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 Nd7⇄]

22.Nxf3

[Equally good was 22.Bxf3 Bg6 23.Bd4 Nd7 24.Nc4 Qc7⇄]

22...Bxf3 23.Bxf3 Nd7 The usual approach - Black takes full control of the dark squares. **24.Bf4 Ne5**

[It was possible to maintain the tension by means of 24...Qc7!? 25.Be2 , though after Bf6 26.Bb5 Be5 27.Bd2 f5 28.Qc4= White still shouldn't face any problems.]

25.Bxe5 dxe5 26.d6! This is absolutely necessary. If Black could manage to set-up a blockade on the dark squares, White would find himself in a difficult situation. **26...Bxd6 27.Qd5 Be7**

[The greedy 27...Bc7?! 28.Qc6 Qc8 29.Rd7 Bd8 30.Qxc8 Rxc8 31.Bd5± might invite some trouble.]

28.Qxe5 Bf6 29.Rxd8 A silent draw offer.

[29.Qg3 didn't change much: Qc8 30.Bd5 Qxc3 31.Bxf7+ Kh8!]

29...Bxe5 30.Rxb8 Rxb8 31.Bd5 Inviting further simplifications. **31...Bxc3 32.Rxf7 Kh8 33.bxa5 bxa5 34.Rb7 Rxb7 35.Bxb7 g6 36.g3 Kg7 37.Kg2 Kf6 38.Kf3 Bb4 39.Bc6 h6 40.Bb5 ½-½**

B33

□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2695**

■ **Fawzy,Adham** **2488**

Sharjah Masters 4th (3) 19.09.2021

[Szabo,Krisztian, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7

[8...Nb8 See 8...♘b8 games.]

9.c4 Nf5

[9...Ng6 See 9...♘g6 game.]

10.Bd3 g6

[10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 *(11...a6 12.Nc3 0-0* Transposes to 11...0-0. *)* 12.f4!

A) 12...g6 13.Kh1 A nice prophylactic move to prevent tactics with Black's ...♕b6+. a6 14.Nc3± Kuusela,M (2226)-Satosuo, R (2010) ICCF email 2014;

B) 12...Qb6+ Black intends to play ...♘e3 and force the exchange with the dark-squared bishop, but White gets a better position in the end. 13.Kh1 a6 *(13...Ne3?! 14.Bxe3 Qxe3 15.Qc2! g6 16.Rf3 Qc5 17.f5*+- White has a decisive advantage. *)* 14.Nc3 Ne3 15.Bxe3 Qxe3 16.f5± Tarlev,K (2568)-Pyrig, R (1927) Lichess.org INT 2021;

C) 12...a6 13.Nc3 exf4 14.Bxf4 Nh4 15.Qc2 Ng6 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Bd4 Rc8 (Kholmov,R (2555)-Gurgenidze,B (2510) Tbilisi 1977) 18.b3±]

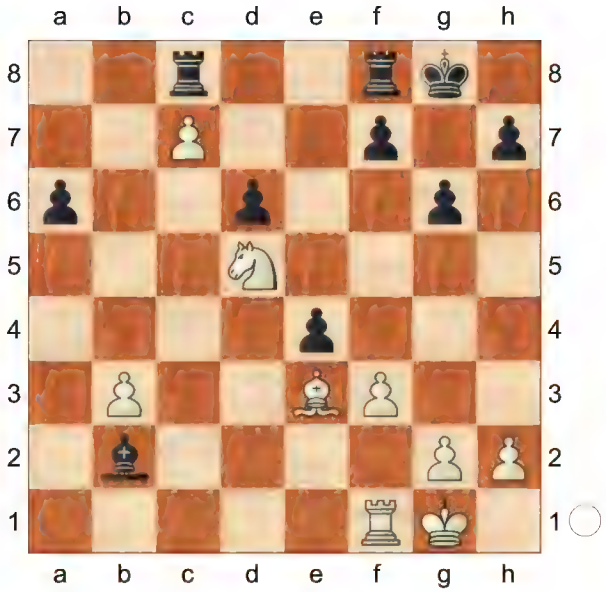
11.0-0 a6 12.Nc3 Bg7 13.Bxf5 Bxf5 White is slightly better. **14.Be3 Rc8**

[14...0-0 was tried by Fedoseev against Shirov, where Shirov misplaced his queen on b3, but eventually was still able to defeat Black. 15.Qd2 Qh4 16.b3 e4 17.Bd4 *(17.Ne2!?)* 17...Bh6! 18.Qe1±]

15.Qa4+ Qd7 16.Qxd7+N

[16.Rac1 is even better. Bf6 *(16...Bd3 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Rfd1 Bxc4 19.Na4* Nc6 Sveshnikov-Sveshnikov 8...Ne7 #4 *)* 17.Qb4 Avoiding the queens exchange for the moment. Bd3 18.Na4! Nb6 would now be deadly. A surprise move.

A) 18...Bxf1 19.Nb6! Qg4 The only move to keep fighting. 20.Rxf1! And now h3! would win. Rd8 21.f3 Qf5 22.c5 0-0! *(22...dxc5?!* 1.89/22 22...0-0 0.74 *23.Bxc5* Strongly threatening Qa4+. *Qd3 24.f4 Qb5 25.Re1 Qxb4 26.Bxb4*+- Black's rook on h8 is completely out of play at the moment and with the king on the center and exposed, White is clearly better. *)* 23.c6 Qd3! 24.Qb3 Qxb3 25.axb3 bxc6 26.dxc6 Threatens to win with Ra1. e4 27.c7 Rc8 Black has no other good choice. 28.Nd5 Bxb2



29.Rf2! Bg7 30.Ne7+ Kh8 31.Rc2!± White's attack is very promissing and it's very easy for Black to go wrong in this line.;

B) 18...Bd8]

16...Bxd7 17.Ne4 Bf8 18.f4? -0.27/23

[18.Rfc1 instead.]

[White should play 18.Nd2± 0.31/23]

18...f5 Allows White to recover.

[18...Bf5! And Black is at least equal.]

19.Nf6+ Ke7 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.Nxd7 Kxd7 22.Rac1 Bg7? 1.00/20 Black misreads the position and wrongly assumes the bishop is better on g7.

From here, Black falls very fast.
[22...Bc5 Trading bishops was a way to keep a balanced position. At least, 22...Be7, so Black could have more control on the a3-f8 diagonal and delay the White's queenside pawns advance.]
[22...Bc5= 0.20/18 remains equal. 23.Bxc5 Rxc5]
23.b4± White is more active. Black is on the road to losing. **23...f4 24.Bb6 Rhf8?!** 2.46/20
[24...Bf6± 1.30/17]
25.c5+- e4 3.05/21
[⌓25...Rf6 2.04/19 26.a4 Bh6 *(26...e4? 27.Rfd1+-)*]

26.c6+! White pawns are too fast.
26...bxc6 27.dxc6+ Ke6 3.47/25
[Much worse is 27...Rxc6 28.Rfd1+ Rd6 29.Rc7+ Ke6 30.Rxd6+ Kxd6 31.Rxg7+-]
[27...Ke8 2.29/19 keeps fighting. 28.a4 *(28.Rc4 Rf6±)* 28...Rf6]
28.Rfd1 e3 29.c7 Bf6 30.a4 Rfe8 31.Kf1 Kf5 aiming for ...e2+. **32.Ke2 Re4 33.Ba5 Be7 34.Kf3** Hoping for Rd5+. **34...Re6** 6.01/21
[⌓34...Re5 4.16/20 35.Rd8 Bxd8 36.cxd8Q Rxd8 37.Bxd8 e2]
35.Rd5+ White is clearly winning.
35...Re5 36.Rxe5+ Kxe5 37.b5 Kd5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.49.
Mistake: White=1
Black=5
Inaccurate: ---
Black=2
OK: White=18
Black=5
Best: ---
Black=3
1-0

B33
□ **Ganguly,Surya Shekhar** **2654**
■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2682**
Edmonton 11th (9) 26.06.2016
[Ganguly,Surya Shekhar, MH]

1.e4 Ganguly,Surya Sekhar Ganguly, Surya Sekhar Roiz,M Ganguly,S Tadic, Branko Ganguly,S **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** Ganguly,S: 'I was expecting a Sveshnikov in this game. Alexei doesn't mind repeating lines and moreover I hadn't faced Sveshnikov opening in recent times so this was very much expected.' I was expecting a Sveshnikov in this game. Alexei doesn't mind repeating lines and moreover I hadn't faced Sveshnikov opening in recent times so this was very much expected. Ganguly,S: 'I was expecting a Sveshnikov in this game. Alexei doesn't mind repeating lines and moreover I hadn't faced the Sveshnikov opening in recent times so this was very much expected.

' **6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 Rb8** Ganguly,S: 'Once again my guess turned out to be correct as I had a hunch that he might opt for this line with ...Bg5-...Rb8 which got revived recently. Earlier Alexei had only played 0-0 here.' Roiz,M: 'This order of moves is one of the most popular nowadays.' Once again my guess turned out to be correct as I had a hunch that he might opt for this line with ...♗g5-...♖b8 which got revived recently. Earlier Alexei had only played 0-0 here.

13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4

[One month after the above-mentioned encounter vs Alexander Grischuk, Lenier tried: 14.Nce3!? (Roiz,M) , but it looks like it didn't come as a surprise for his opponent: 0-0 15.Qxa4 Bxe3 16.Nxe3 Ne7 17.0-0-0

A) Playable seems also: 17...Qc7!? 18.Qa3 This position took place in another theoretical discussion between the same players, Dominguez Perez,L - Grischuk,A / Beijing CHN 2014 *(18.Rd2 Be6 19.Bc4 Nc6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Qc4 Qd7 22.Qa2 Rb5⇄)* In my opinion, Black should have played: 18...Be6! 19.Qxd6 *(*After *19.Rxd6 Rb3 20.Qxa6 Rfb8 21.Rd2 R3b6 22.Qa3 g6* White's monarch is in big danger. *)* 19...Qa5 20.Qxa6 Qc7 with dangerous play along the a and b-files.;

B) 17...Bb7 18.Bd3 Bc6 19.Qa3 Qc7 20.Rd2 *(*Possibly, *20.f3!?* is more promising. Now, after *d5 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Rxd5 Qc4 25.Rhd1 Rfc8 26.Kc2!* it would not be easy for Black to claim sufficient compensation for a pawn. *)* 20...d5 21.exd5 Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Rxd5 Qc4 25.Rhd1 Rfc8 26.R5d3 Rc5 Black was fine in Dominguez Perez,L - Gelfand,B / Baku 2014]

14...Nxb4 15.cxb4

[15.Nxb4 Ganguly,S: 'is another main line.' is another main line.]

15...0-0 16.Rxa4 a5 17.h4 Ganguly,S: 'An important intermediate move in anticipation of the d5-pawn sac which happened in the game. In order to understand the purpose of this move one should know what happens after the normal move 17.b5:' Roiz,M: '!' Roiz, M: 'This intermediate move is the only way to fight for an advantage, and it was employed by Former World Champion Vishy Anand.' An important intermediate move in anticipation of the d5-pawn sac which happened in the game. In order to understand the purpose of this move one should know what happens after the normal move 17. b5:

[17.b5 Ganguly,S: 'as both 17.bxa5 and 17.Rxa5 run into an one move tactic 17.b5 is the only other and perhaps the most natural reaction in the position. For a long time this line used to be considered slightly worse for Black until Grischuk came up with a brilliant pawn sac idea.' as both 17. bxa5 and 17.♖xa5 run into an one move tactic 17.b5 is the only other and perhaps the most natural reaction in the position. For a long time this line used to be considered slightly worse for Black until Grischuk came up with a brilliant pawn sac idea. Bd7

18.Nc3 d5! Ganguly,S: 'A move which I personally know was found by many players individually but Grischuk had the first opportunity to use it on the board.' Roiz,M: 'is considered toothless since Dominguez Perez,L (2755)-Grischuk,A (2789) Bilbao 2014 [Roiz,M]' A move which I personally know was found by many players individually but Grischuk had the first opportunity to use it on the board. *(18...Qb6* Ganguly,S: 'was the old theory' was the old theory *)* 19.Nxd5 *(19.exd5 e4! 20.Rxe4 f5 21.Rd4 Bf6⩱* Ganguly,S: 'gives Black excellent compensation.' gives Black excellent compensation. *)* 19...Be7 20.Qb3 Bb4+ 21.Nxb4 axb4 22.Bc4 Bxb5= 0-1 (51) Dominguez Perez,L (2755)-Grischuk,A (2789) Bilbao 2014, Ganguly,S: '0-1 (51) Dominguez Perez,L (2755)-Grischuk,A (2789) Bilbao 2014, and Black got easy equality in the game.' and Black got easy equality in the game.]

17...Bh6 Ganguly,S: 'It is important that White includes h4 precisely at the point when the black bishop must go to h6.' It is important that White includes h4 precisely at the point when the black bishop must go to h6.

[17...Be7? 18.bxa5! Rxb2 Ganguly,S: 'without the bishop on g5 this rook is not doing much on b2 and also can be kicked out easily:' without the bishop on g5 this rook is not doing much on b2 and also can be kicked out easily: 19.Qc1 Ganguly,S: 'and White is close to winning.' and White is close to winning.]

18.b5 Bd7

[Too slow seems 18...Kh8?! Roiz,M 19.Be2 Be6 20.b3 g6 21.h5 Kg7 This position occurred in Bok,B - Yu Yangyi / Doha QAT 2015 White could have fixed a clear positional advantage by means of 22.Bc4! f5 23.Nc3±]

19.Nc3 d5 Ganguly,S: 'So we have got the same positionas in Dominguiz - Grischuk with h4-Bh6 included.' Roiz,M: 'The same approach as in Dominguez-Grischuk, but now the Bh6 is far away from the e7-spot, so White is able to keep the extra material.' So we have got the same positionas in Dominguiz - Grischuk with h4-♗h6 included.

[In case of 19...Qb6 Roiz,M 20.Bc4 Kh8 21.0-0 f5 22.exf5 Bxf5 it makes sense to over-protect the bishop with 23.b3! *(*The 'greedy' *23.g4* can be well met by *d5! 24.Bxd5 Qg6⩱)* It looks like Black's active possibilities are heavily limited here. For instance, 23...e4 24.Nd5 Qc5 25.Rxa5±]

20.exd5 e4N Tadic,Branko: 'N!?' Roiz, M: 'Alexei comes up with a novelty in an important theoretical position.'

[Roiz,M: 'One preceding top-level game saw' 20...Kh8!? Ganguly,S: 'Grischuk opted for this when Anand came up with the 17.h4 idea:' Grischuk opted for this when Anand came up with the 17.h4 idea: 21.Be2 f5 22.g3 ½-½ (41) Anand,V (2804)-Grischuk,A (2781) Stavanger 2015, Ganguly,S: '½-½ (41) Anand,V (2804)-Grischuk,A (2781) Stavanger 2015, with unclear play.' with unclear play. *(*The cool-blooded *22.0-0!?* Roiz,M *Rf6 23.h5* also deserves serious attention. *)* 22...Qb6 Tadic,Branko 23.0-0 Rbd8 *(23...Rf6!?* Roiz,M *)* 24.Kg2 Bc8⩲ - 125/(46) 25.f4?! Roiz,M *(*Much better was: *25.Rc4!*

Roiz,M *Bb7 26.Rc6 Bxc6 27.bxc6 Qxb2 28.Nb5±)* 25...Rfe8 26.fxe5 Rxe5⇄ Anand,V - Grischuk,A / Stavanger NOR 2015]

21.Be2 Ganguly,S: 'And now we see the point of including h4-Bh6. Here the black bishop on h6 is not only out of play but also it prevents Black from pushing his central pawns freely.' Roiz, M: 'Possibly this position was still a part of GM Ganguly's home preparation.' And now we see the point of including h4-♗h6. Here the black bishop on h6 is not only out of play but also it prevents Black from pushing his central pawns freely.

[Roiz,M: 'White would be able to keep one of the extra pawns after' 21.Rxe4 f5 *(*Black doesn't get full compensation for a pawn after *21...Re8* Roiz,M *22.Rxe8+ Qxe8+ 23.Qe2 Qf8 24.Qc2 Qe8+ 25.Be2 Bxb5 26.0-0±)* 22.Rd4 Re8+ 23.Be2 Rxb5 Ganguly,S: 'doesn't give White much.' doesn't give White much. *(23...Bxb5?!* Tadic,Branko *24.Nxb5 Rxb5 25.b3±)* 24.0-0 Tadic,Branko *(24.Nxb5* Roiz,M *Bxb5 25.Rd3 Bf4 26.g3 Bxd3 27.Qxd3 Bd6 28.Kf1 Qf6 29.b3±* , but I believe Black should achieve a draw here. *)* 24...Rxb2=]

21...f5

[Roiz,M: 'The most aggressive' 21...e3 Ganguly,S: 'would be nice if it works but here White has...' Roiz,M: 'is well met by' would be nice if it works but here White has... 22.f4! Ganguly,S: 'and now either the h6-bishop will be dead for a long time or Black should play ...g6 when White can counter with h5 and the rook on h1 becomes active too.' and now either the h6-bishop will be dead for a long time or Black should play ...g6 when White can counter with h5 and the rook on h1 becomes active too. g6 Roiz,M 23.h5 Bg7 24.h6 Bh8 25.0-0 Bf5 26.Rc4± and White keeps everything under control.]

[Something like 21...Re8 Roiz,M 22.Rxe4 *(22.d6!?* is also a respectable option. *)* 22...Rxe4 23.Nxe4 Qe8 24.Nc3 Bxb5 25.Nxb5 Rxb5 26.Qa4 Rb8 27.Qxe8+ Rxe8 28.Rh3 Bf4± would offer Black decent drawing chances, but it didn't suit Shirov's uncompromising style.]

22.d6! Roiz,M: 'Surya pushes the passer, making the d5-spot vacant for the pieces.'

[The prophylactic 22.g3 (Roiz,M) seems less effective: f4! 23.Rxe4 fxg3 24.fxg3 Qb6 25.Qd4 Qg6 26.g4 Bc1⇄]

22...Kh8 Roiz,M: 'Black can hardly do without this move.'

[22...Bf4 1.63/22 22...Kh8 0.56 Ganguly,S: 'Black would love to free his bishop but this is still not the right moment for it.' Black would love to free his bishop but this is still not the right moment for it. 23.g3 Be5? 4.51/20 *(23...Bh6±* 1.45/18 is tougher. *24.Qd5+ Kh8)* 24.Qd5++-]

23.g3! Ganguly,S: 'Now that Black was threatening to play Bf4-Be5 this move is important.' Roiz,M: 'Now this prophylactic approach makes more sense!' Now that Black was threatening to play ♗f4-♗e5 this move is important.

23...f4?! 0.90/22 Ganguly,S: 'Probably the most natural move, but not the best one. I had this position on my computer before the game and I vividly remember

that the engines were not happy with ... f4. However, while Alexei was pondering over his 23rd move I also felt ...f4 is a very natural reaction and goes with the spirit of the Sveshnikov opening. Without the engines running things are not that easy, specially over the board.' Roiz,M: 'A wrong decision - Black's forces are not ready for such drastic measures!' Probably the most natural move, but not the best one. I had this position on my computer before the game and I vividly remember that the engines were not happy with ...f4. However, while Alexei was pondering over his 23rd move I also felt ...f4 is a very natural reaction and goes with the spirit of the Sveshnikov opening. Without the engines running things are not that easy, specially over the board.

[23...Rf6 0.88/19 23...Qb6 0.47 Tadic, Branko: '⌓' 24.Rd4! Tadic,Branko: '∞' Ganguly,S: 'was the last bit of my preparation that I could remember. Tadic,Branko: '∞" was the last bit of my preparation that I could remember.]

[It looks like 23...Qf6! Roiz,M 24.0-0! f4! would offer Black adequate compensation for 2 pawns. For instance, 25.Nxe4 *(* Deserves serious attention *25.Qd5!?* , but it's tough for a human player not to release the tension. *)* 25...Qxb2 26.g4 f3! 27.Bxf3

A) 27...Bxb5 28.Rxa5 Bxf1 0.91/21 *(28...Bf4!±* 0.44/23 *)* 29.Kxf1± Hoping for g5. Bf4 1.42/24 *(⌓29...Qb3* 0.91/21 *)* 30.Kg2± 0.87/19 *(* White should play *30.Rd5!* 1.42/24 *)*;

B) 27...Qxb5! 28.Rd4 Qb6! 29.Rd5 Bc6 30.Rh5 Threatens to win with g5. Rf4⇄]

[23...Qb6± 0.33/27]

24.Rxe4± Ganguly,S: 'After a reasonable amount of thinking, but this was easy by the process of elimination.' After a reasonable amount of thinking, but this was easy by the process of elimination. **24...Bf5** Ganguly,S: 'Here I had a choice to play very safe and hope for a small advantage by castling right now and giving up the exchange or biting the bullet with Re5 which I ended up playing simply because it felt stronger.' Here I had a choice to play very safe and hope for a small advantage by castling right now and giving up the exchange or biting the bullet with ♖e5 which I ended up playing simply because it felt stronger.

[24...fxg3 Roiz,M 25.fxg3 And now Rf1 would win. Qb6 1.47/22 *(*Better is *25...Bf5* 1.01/20 *)* 26.Qd4±]

25.Re5 0.38/24

[Roiz,M: 'Another decent way of handling the position was:' 25.0-0! Bxe4 26.Nxe4 Ganguly,S: 'is also fine for White and may be if I had this position some other day I might have opted for this.' is also fine for White and may be if I had this position some other day I might have opted for this. g6 Roiz,M 27.d7± converting the material advantage into a positional superiority.]

[25.0-0!± 0.99/22]

25...Qf6!±

[25...Rb6 0.82/26 25...Qf6 0.22 25... Qf6 0.53 Ganguly,S: 'was the other move that I was looking at. Black can try to attack the annoying pawn on d6.' was the other move that I was looking at. Black can try to attack the annoying pawn on d6. 26.0-0! 0.41/29

(26.Rd5± 0.98/25*; 26.g4±* 0.82/26 *Rxd6 27.Rd5 Rxd5 28.Nxd5)* 26...Bh3? 3.06/21 *(26...Rxd6 27.Rd5* Ganguly,S: 'leads to a very nice endgame specially as the bishop on h6 (thanks to h4!) is far away from the game.' leads to a very nice endgame specially as the bishop on h6 (thanks to h4!) is far away from the game.*; 26...Rxd6±* 0.41/29 *27.Rd5 fxg3 28.fxg3 Rxd5 29.Qxd5 Qxd5 30.Nxd5 g6)* 27.Ne4!+- Bxf1 28.Bxf1±]

[25...fxg3 Tadic,Branko 26.fxg3 Rf6 27.Rd5! Be3 1.38/24 *(⌓27...Be6* 0.94/25 *28.Ne4 Rc8)* 28.Rf1± Be6 29.Rd3! Rxf1+ 30.Bxf1 Bc5∞]

26.Qd5 Roiz,M: '!' Roiz,M: 'The queen is perfectly placed in the centre.' **26...fxg3**

[26...f3!? 2.04/24 26...fxg3 0.44 26... fxg3 0.50 Ganguly,S: 'This looked a bit scary at the board. Now, having the air-conditioning on and engines running, everything looks under control. During the game facing Shirov in such a wild position things looks a bit different. I was certain White is better but nevertheless there were many lines that had to be calculated.' This looked a bit scary at the board. Now, having the air-conditioning on and engines running, everything looks under control. During the game facing Shirov in such a wild position things looks a bit different. I was certain White is better but nevertheless there were many lines that had to be calculated.

A) 27.Bxf3? -0.23/23 27.Bc4 2.11 27.Bc4 2.12 Bg4! *(27...Bd7* 1.13/23 27...Bg4 -0.17 27...Bg4 -0. *27 28.0-0!* Ganguly,S: 'White sacs the piece and gets very good compensation' White sacs the piece and gets very good compensation *Qxf3 29.Qxf3 Rxf3 30.Re7* Ganguly,S: 'in fact White is significantly better here' in fact White is significantly better here *)* 28.Be2! *(28.Bxg4* -0.53/19 28.Be2 -0.04 *Qxf2+ 29.Kd1 Qxb2-+* Ganguly,S: 'now the king is totally exposed and Black wins' now the king is totally exposed and Black wins *)* 28...Qxf2+ 29.Kd1∞ Ganguly,S: 'was messy and I didn't like this at all.' was messy and I didn't like this at all.;

B) 27.Bc4! Strongly threatening 0-0! 27...Rbe8 28.Rxe8! Rxe8+ 29.Kf1± Ganguly,S: 'It looks weird but the white king is actually very safe and White is controlling all the key squares.'. Kg1! would now be deadly. It looks weird but the white king is actually very safe and White is controlling all the key squares. Rd8 Ganguly,S: 'is an empty threat as it doesn't really threaten anything.' is an empty threat as it doesn't really threaten anything. 30.Kg1!+- Ganguly,S: 'Black can't even take the pawn.' Black can't even take the pawn.]

27.fxg3 Qg6? 3.61/17 Tadic,Branko: '?' Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

[27...Bd3? 3.06/11 27...g6 0.24 27... g6 0.30 Ganguly,S: 'After the game some people said it was an easy game and Shirov lost without a fight. I would love to see how they would react to such a move without computers :-)' After the game some people said it was an easy game and Shirov lost without a fight. I would love to see how they would react to such a

move without computers :-) 28.Kd1 Ganguly,S: 'I wanted to play this but the machine points out a stronger move.' I wanted to play this but the machine points out a stronger move. *(28.Rf1?? -#2*/16 28.Kd1 2.17 28. Kd1 2.84 Ganguly,S: 'is not advisable!' is not advisable! *Qxf1+ 29.Bxf1 Rxf1#; 28.g4!* Ganguly,S: 'is the computer suggestion' is the computer suggestion *Qf2+ 29.Kd1*+- Ganguly,S: 'and apparently Black is lost' and apparently Black is lost *)* 28...Rb6 29.Bxd3 Rxd6 30.Qe4 Rxd3+ 31.Qxd3 Qxe5 32.Kc2± Ganguly,S: 'and White will slowly consolidate I believe.' and White will slowly consolidate I believe.] [Roiz,M: 'Necessary was:' 27...g6! Tadic,Branko: '⌓' Ganguly,S: 'is the computer suggestion and probably the strongest. Somehow both of us felt that such a slow move can't work as it allows White to consolidate totally by castling. Tadic,Branko: '⌓" is the computer suggestion and probably the strongest. Somehow both of us felt that such a slow move can't work as it allows White to consolidate totally by castling. 28.0-0 aiming for Ne4. Strongly threatening Ne4. Bg7! Ganguly,S: 'finally the bishop comes back into the game!' finally the bishop comes back into the game! 29.Re7 Ne4 would now be deadly. Threatens to win with Ne4. Rbd8 30.Ne4 Qxe7 31.dxe7 Rxd5 32.exf8Q+ Bxf8 Ganguly,S: 'White gets to exchange the queens and remains one pawn up, but Black will have decent chances of making a draw here now that both of his bishops are in the game.' White gets to exchange the queens and remains one pawn up, but Black will have decent chances of making a draw here now that both of his bishops are in the game. 33.g4 Tadic,Branko Re5! 34.Nc3! Bc5+ 35.Kg2 Be6± Roiz,M: '±' Roiz,M: 'with definite drawing chances.'] [27...g6!± 0.34/21] [Better is 27...g6!± 0.34/21]

' Ganguly,S: 'Tadic,Branko: '?' Tadic, Branko: 'Diagram [#]" Roiz,M: '?' Roiz, M: 'A decisive mistake. I guess Alexei underestimated White's next move.' **28.g4!+-** Ganguly,S: 'Otherwise Black is totally fine.' Otherwise Black is totally fine. **28...Bc8** Roiz,M: 'A bad sign.' [Roiz,M: 'However,' 28...Bxg4 Ganguly,S: 'Knowing whom I am playing with I was making sure that I see all sorts of sacrifices. Shirov would be the last person on earth to shy away from attack!'. White must now prevent ...Rbd8. aiming for ... Rbd8. Knowing whom I am playing with I was making sure that I see all sorts of sacrifices. Shirov would be

the last person on earth to shy away from attack! 29.Rg1! Tadic,Branko: '+- ' Qc2 30.Rxg4 Qxb2 Ganguly,S: 'at this point it felt everything should be winning but nevertheless I decided to go a little deeper just in case.' at this point it felt everything should be winning but nevertheless I decided to go a little deeper just in case. 31.Qd4 Ganguly,S: 'felt most logical as it defends the c3-knight and also keeps an eye on g7 for an attack.' felt most logical as it defends the c3-knight and also keeps an eye on g7 for an attack. *(31.Nd1 Bd2+ 32.Qxd2 Qxe5 33.Qd4* Ganguly,S: 'was also winning but I was looking for a more direct solution' was also winning but I was looking for a more direct solution *)* 31...Rbc8 Ganguly,S: 'Otherwise there is no time for Black.' Otherwise there is no time for Black.

A) 32.d7?? -5.64/19 32.Re3 5.02 32.Nd1 4.88 Ganguly,S: 'Initially this is the move I saw and felt I had everything under total control.' Initially this is the move I saw and felt I had everything under total control. Rxc3 33.d8Q -#4/19 Ganguly,S: 'I checked the position and felt that I am simply controlling too many squares and there is little Black can do. I was happy with this until I found Black can mate in 4 :-)' I checked the position and felt that I am simply controlling too many squares and there is little Black can do. I was happy with this until I found Black can mate in 4 :-) *(33.Rf4-+* -5.01/14 *Qc1+ 34.Bd1 Bxf4 35.d8Q Bg3+ 36.Ke2 Qb2+ 37.Qd2 Qxd2+ 38.Qxd2 Rf2+ 39.Ke1 Rxd2+ 40.Kxd2 Bxe5 41.b6)* 33...Rc1+! 34.Bd1 Rxd1+ 35.Kxd1 *(35.Qxd1 Qf2#)* 35...Qc1+ 36.Ke2 Qf1# Ganguly,S: 'Yes, White is still controlling most of the squares, but that doesn't stop him from being mated!' Yes, White is still controlling most of the squares, but that doesn't stop him from being mated!;

B) 32.Re3!+- (Roiz,M) just leaves Black a piece down.;

C) 32.Nd1! Bd2+ 33.Qxd2 Qxe5 34.Qd4+- Ganguly,S: 'and after rechecking this line once more I was confident that I coulddeal with 28...Bg4.' and after rechecking this line once more I was confident that I coulddeal with 28...♗g4.]

29.Ne4 2.61/20 Ganguly,S: 'At this point I was absolutely sure it's winning. 28... Bc8 is too good to be true for Black. As Gelfand says in his book... 'it is not important how quickly you win but its more important that how safely you win' ... so I was looking for the safest way possible and finally came to this move which forces a queen exchange.' At this point I was absolutely sure it's winning. 28...♗c8 is too good to be true for Black. As Gelfand says in his book... 'it is not important how quickly you win but its more important that how safely you win' ... so I was looking for the safest way possible and finally came to this move which forces a queen exchange.

[29.Qd4 Ganguly,S: 'the engine says this is one of the fastest routes but I trust Gelfand :)' the engine says this is one of the fastest routes but I trust Gelfand :)]

[29.g5!? Bb7 30.Qd1 Ganguly,S: 'I

was initially excited with this absolute crazy retreat' I was initially excited with this absolute crazy retreat Bxh1 31.Bh5!

A) 31...Bf3 32.Bxf3 Bh5! is the strong threat. Rbe8 4.80/20 *(⌓32...Qf7* 3.20/19 *33.gxh6 Qxf3)* 33.Rxe8+- Rxe8+ 34.Kf2 Bxg5 35.hxg5 Qxg5 36.Qd4+- Inhibits Qh4+.;

B) 31...Rbe8? 4.09/21 31...Qxh5 2.48 31...Qxh5 3.17 32.Bxg6 Rxe5+ 33.Kd2+-;

C) 31...Qxh5 32.Qxh5 Bf3 33.Qxf3! Rxf3 34.Ke2± Ganguly,S: 'should be good enough for White but then the position I had after 28...Bc8 looked much worse for Black than the current position.' should be good enough for White but then the position I had after 28...♗c8 looked much worse for Black than the current position.]

[⌓29.Qd4 4.65/23]

29...Bb7+-

[29...Bf4? 6.71/13 29...Bb7 2.40 29...Bb7 2.63 30.h5 Qh6 31.g5+-]

30.h5! Roiz,M: 'Simplifying matters.'

[Roiz,M: 'There was nothing wrong with' 30.Qd4+- Tadic,Branko Bf4 Roiz,M 31.h5! Bxe5 32.hxg6 Bxd4 33.Rxh7+ Kg8 34.Bc4++-]

30...Qxe4 Ganguly,S: 'Black has no way to escape the queen exchange.' Black has no way to escape the queen exchange.

31.Qxe4 Bxe4 32.Rxe4 Roiz,M: 'White's passers paralyze Black now.' **32...Rfd8 33.Rd4** Ganguly,S: 'Finally, all complications are over and White is two pawns up. While calculating 29.Ne4 I had to just make sure that I was not losing my d6-pawn which is the most vital pawn that restricts Black's activity.' Finally, all complications are over and White is two pawns up. While calculating 29.♘e4 I had to just make sure that I was not losing my d6-pawn which is the most vital pawn that restricts Black's activity.

33...Bc1

[Or 33...Rb6? 4.50/15 33...Bc1 2.57 Roiz,M 34.d7 Rb7 35.Rf1+-]

34.d7 Ganguly,S: 'This is once again the safest way as it restricts Black totally.' Roiz,M: 'GM Ganguly reasonably doesn't waste time on protecting the Pb2.' This is once again the safest way as it restricts Black totally.

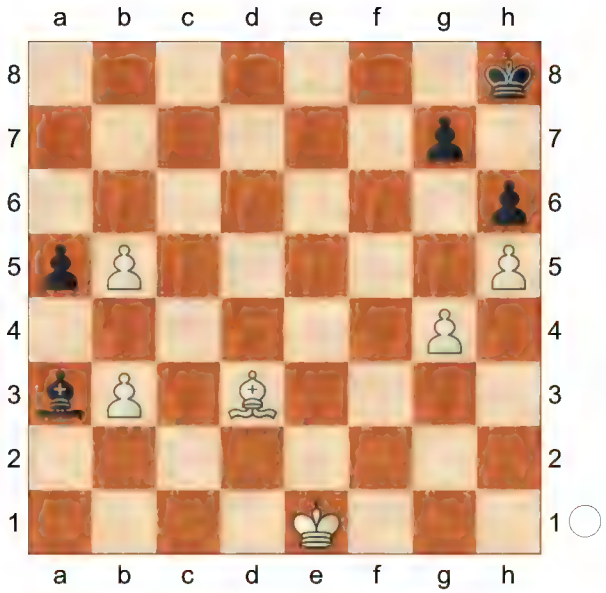
[34.b3 Ba3 35.d7 Rb7 36.Rh3 Ganguly,S: 'I spend some time on making the opposite coloured bishop ending win but it was unnecessary and moreover probably not winning either!' I spend some time on making the opposite coloured bishop ending win but it was unnecessary and moreover probably not winning either! Rbxd7 37.Rxd7 Rxd7 38.Rd3? 0.13/40 *(38.Bc4+-* 2.66/22*; 38.g5+-* 3.02/24 *)* 38...Rxd3= 39.Bxd3 Kg8! *(39...h6?* 3.61/25 39...Kg8 0.15 39...Kg8 0.18

(Diagram)

40.Bc4!+-) 40.Kd2 h6 41.Kc3 Kf7 42.Kc4 Ke6 43.b6 Kd7 44.Kb5 Kc8 45.Kxa5 Kb8=]

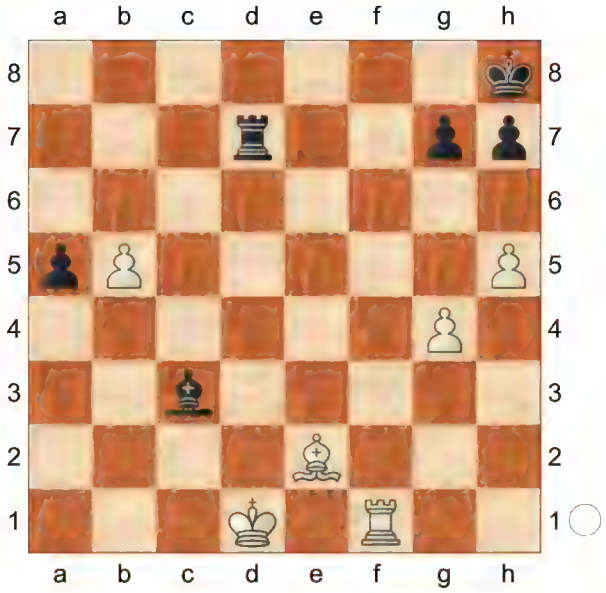
34...Bxb2 35.Rd5 Rb7 Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram

[The a-passer can be easily neutralized: 35...a4 4.20/16 35...Rb7 2.95 35...Rb7 3.24 Roiz,M 36.Kd2 a3 37.Kc2 Rb7 38.Rhd1+-]



' Ganguly,S: 'Tadic,Branko: 'Diagram [#]" **36.0-0!** Ganguly,S: 'Not only for aesthetic effect and getting the pleasure of castling on move 36 but it actually has a point. If I could, then I would keep my king closer to Black's a-pawn but unfortunately I couldn't make 36.Rf1 work.' Not only for aesthetic effect and getting the pleasure of castling on move 36 but it actually has a point. If I could, then I would keep my king closer to Black's a-pawn but unfortunately I couldn't make 36.♖f1 work.

[36.Rf1? 0.68/7 36.0-0 2.63 36.0-0 3. 14 Ba3? 3.03/25 *(36...Rbxd7± 1.15/22 37.Rxd7 Bc3+ 38.Kd1 Rxd7+*



39.Kc2! Bb4 Dodges Rf8+*; 36...Bc3+±* 0.68/7 *37.Kd1 Bb4)* 37.Rf7 Kg8 Ganguly,S: 'mostly I am winning here too but I have to give up the d-pawn which I didn't want to.' mostly I am winning here too but I have to give up the d-pawn which I didn't want to.] [Not 36.Rd2? Bc3 37.Rh3 Rbxd7 *(37...Bxd2+? 38.Kxd2 Rbxd7+ 39.Kc3-+)* 38.Rxc3 Intending Rxd7 and mate. Rxd2-+] [Don't go for 36.Rd2? Bc3 *(36...Rbxd7?* too greedy. *37.Rxb2 Rb8 38.Kf2+-)* 37.Rh3 Rbxd7 38.Rxc3 Rxd2-+]

36...g6? 6.65/19 Tadic,Branko: '?!' [36...Ba3 Tadic,Branko: '⌓' 37.Rfd1 Ganguly,S: 'The point of castling.... White gets to defend the d-pawn. Next Re5 or Bc4 is coming and Black will be totally fixed.' The point of castling.... White gets to defend the d-pawn. Next ♖e5 or ♗c4 is coming and Black will be totally fixed. Be7 5.86/19 *(37...h6*

Roiz,M *38.Kg2 Be7 39.Bf3 Kg8 40.R5d3 Rxb5 41.Re1 Bf6 42.Re8+ Kf7 43.Bc6 Rg5 44.Rf3+-; 37...h6* 4.08/20 keeps fighting. *38.g5 Be7)* 38.g5+- h6 39.g6 Rbb8 40.Bc4+-]
[36...h6 3.78/22 37.Bc4
And now Rf8+! would win. Kh7]
[⌓36...h6 3.51/23 37.Bc4 Rbb8]
37.h6+- Roiz,M: '!' Roiz,M: 'The most convincing.' **37...Ba3 38.Rf7 a4 39.Re5!** Ganguly,S: 'Now both rooks will be fixed.' Now both rooks will be fixed. **39...Rbb8 40.Bc4** Ganguly,S: 'Now the king.' Roiz,M: 'Black is helpless. The last few moves were just an agony.' Now the king. **40...Bf8 41.Kg2 a3 42.Ba2** Ganguly,S: 'And finally the pawns.' And finally the pawns. **42...Bd6 43.Re6 Bf8 44.b6** Ganguly,S: 'Next White will play b7 and then Black will be able to move nothing but his bishop. Alexei decided not to continue further.' Next White will play b7 and then Black will be able to move nothing but his bishop. Alexei decided not to continue further.
1-0

B33
□ **Muzychuk,Mariya** **2540**
■ **Melkumyan,Hrant** **2660**
Gibraltar Masters 17th (6) 27.01.2019
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.0-0 0-0 14.c4 f5 15.Qf3
[15.exf5 e4 16.f6 Bxf6∓]
15...Qb7! Not the most popular continuation, however, enough for equality. Black is threatening 16...d5 17. cxd5 fxe4 followed by 18...d5.
[15...bxc4 0.74/22 15...Qb7 0.20]
[and 15...d5 are main moves. In the latter case after 16.cxd5 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Black should play Rb8 *(*as *17...f5?* 1.92/22 17...Rb8 0.43 doesn't work due to *18.d6!)*]
16.exf5
[16.cxb5? -1.01/22 16.exf5 0.14 d5!]
[16.Qe2 d5! 17.cxd5 fxe4 18.Bxe4 f5 19.Bc2 e4 20.Bb3 Kh8 21.Rad1 Bd7 22.Nc2 Qb6 Prevents Nd4. 23.Qe3 Qxe3 24.fxe3 Bxb2= 1/2 (49) Kosteniuk,A (2537)-Iljin,T (2279) Sochi 2016]
[16.cxb5 d5! 17.exf5 *(17.bxa6 Qxb2 18.Bb5 fxe4∓; 17.exd5? e4-+)* 17...e4∓]
16...Qxf3 17.gxf3 e4! Discovered Attack. The position is equal. **18.Bxe4 d5!** Deflection **19.Bxd5 Bxf5!?** The pointe of Black's idea. He sacrifices an exchange but White can't keep his material advantage due to Black's powerful bishop pair.
[19...Rb8 is probably possible, too. It was successfully tried in the following GM game: 20.Rab1 *(20.Rad1 Bxb2 21.Nc2 Bxf5 22.Ne3 Bh3⩱)* 20...Bxf5 21.Be4! Bh3 22.Rfe1 Kh8! 23.cxb5 Bxb2 *(23...Rg8!? 24.Kh1□ axb5=)* 24.Rxb2 Rg8+ 25.Kh1 Bg2+ 26.Kg1 Bh3+ 27.Kh1 Bg2+ 28.Kg1 Bh3+ 1/2 (28) Kokarev,D (2596)-Yakovich,Y (2539) Samara 2011]
20.Bxa8
[20.cxb5 Bxb2 21.Bxa8 Rxa8]
20...Rxa8 21.Rae1N
[21.Rae1!?]
[21.Rae1!?]

[21.cxb5 Bxb2 22.Nc4 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 axb5∓ 24.Nd6 Bd3 25.Rd1 Ra3 26.Rd2 Kg7 27.Rb2 Ra6 28.Nxb5 Bxb5 29.Rxb5 Rxa2 30.Kg2 Kg6 31.Rb6+ Kg7 32.Rb5 Kg6 33.Rb6+ Kg7 34.Rb5 Sarana,A (2613)-Dubov,D (2691) RUS-ch 71st Satka 2018 (1) ½-½]

21...Bxb2

[21...Bd3 is simpler:

A) White tried 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Re3 Bxf1 24.Kxf1 Bxb2 25.Nxb5 Rxa2 several times but couldn't make use of his double pawn: 26.Re2 *(26.Re4 Ra6 27.Nc7 Rc6 28.Nd5* And now Ne7+ would win. *Kg7 29.Rg4+ Rg6 30.Ne7 Rxg4 31.fxg4 Kf6 32.Nc6 Kg5* 1/2 (50) Galkin,A (2590)-Saric,I (2469) playchess.com INT 2007*)* 26...Ra1+ 27.Kg2 Bf6 28.Nd6 Kg7 *(28...Ra5 29.f4 Rd5 30.Re8+ Kg7 31.Ne4 Bd4 32.Kf3 f5 33.Ng3 Kf7 34.Rc8 Bf6 35.Rc6 Ra5* 1/2 (74) Zontakh,A (2543)-Sergeev,V (2377) St Petersburg 2005 *)* 29.f4 Rd1 30.Ne4 Bd8 31.Ng3 Kg6 32.Kf3 Rd3+ 33.Re3 Rd2 34.Re8 f6 35.f5+ Kf7 36.Re6 Be7 37.Ra6 Rd4 38.Ne4 Rd3+ 39.Kg4 1/2 (39) Hedlund,T (2520)-Toro Solis de Ovando,G (2634) Rochade 5171-Jub15 bd01 2005;

B) 22.b3 Bf8

B1) 23.c5!? Bxc5 24.Nc2

B1a) 24...Bxf1 25.Kxf1 Rd8 26.Ne3 Kf8 27.Ke2 0.02/22 *(27.Re2±* 0.61/22 *)* 27...Bb4= 28.Rd1± 1-0 (55) Fier,A (2527)-Barbosa,E (2165) Santos 2008;

B1b) 24...Kh8! 25.Ne3 Rg8+ 26.Kh1 *(26.Ng2 Bf5)* 26...Bxf1 27.Rxf1 1/2 (27) Rizzo,R (2473)-De Oliveira,M (2569) Rochade 5171-Jub15 bd02 2005 Rd8=;

B2) 23.Nb1 bxc4 24.bxc4 Bxc4 25.Nd2 Bxf1 26.Nxf1 Here, too, White's extra pawn can hardly be converted: Rb8 *(26...Rc8!? Δ27.Re5 Rc3)* 27.Re5 Bd6 28.Ra5 Rb6 29.Kg2 Bc7 30.Rc5 Bd6 31.Rc8+ Kg7 32.a4 Bb8 33.Ne3 Rg6+ 34.Kh1 Be5 35.Rc4 Bb8 36.h3 h6 37.h4 Ba7 38.Nf5+ Kh7 39.Rc7 Rf6 40.Rxa7 Rxf5 41.Rxa6 Black must now prevent Kg2. Rh5 42.Kg2 Hoping for Kg3. Rxh4= 1/2 (45) Kitson,K (2557)-Moucka,J (2525) ICCF 2005]

22.Re3 b4 23.Nb1N A double-edged continuation.

[23.Nc2 leads to a drawish rook ending: Bxc2 24.Re2! Bd3! 25.Rxb2 Bxf1 26.Kxf1 a5 27.Ke2 Kf8 28.Kd3 c5 would now be deadly. Rd8+ *(28...Ke7?! 29.c5 Kd7 30.Kc4±* 1-0 (47) Nilsson,S (2215)-Jansson,A (2189) Vadso 2008*)* 29.Ke3 Rd1=]

23...a5! Strongly threatening ...Bd5!

24.Nd2 a4 25.c5

[25.Rfe1!? Kg7 26.Ne4 next Nd6 is good for White. *(26.Re8* is senseless due to *Ra6)*

A) ≤26...b3 27.axb3 a3 28.Nc3! Δa2 2.49/22 *(28...Rb8!=* 0.12/23 *)* 29.Nxa2!+- Rxa2 30.R3e2!+-;

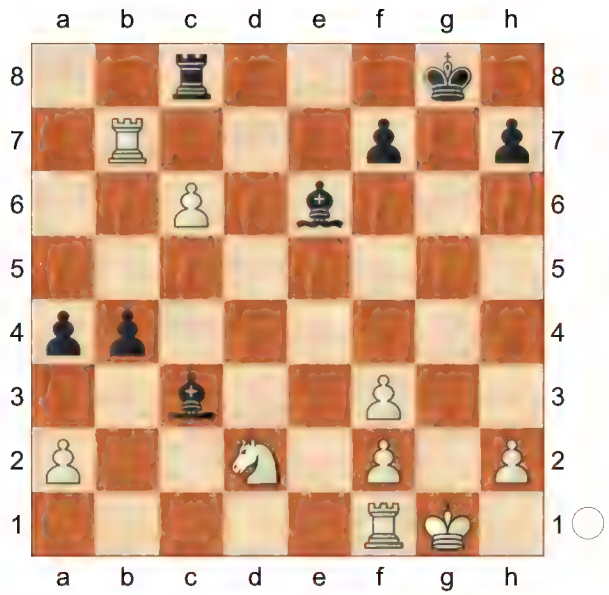
B) , and Black should play 26...Be6! 27.Rb1 a3 28.Rb3 Bxc4 29.Rxb4 Bxa2 30.R1xb2 axb2 31.Rxb2 with a probable draw]

25...Bd4 26.Re7 Be6 This pair of

bishops is nice.
[Here 26...b3!? was appropriate: 27.axb3 a3 28.b4! a2 29.Nb3 Bf6⩲]
[26...Bxc5? 27.Re5 Ra5 28.Rxf5+-]
[26...b3!? 27.axb3 Kf8=]
27.c6 Rc8?! 0.43/26 Wrong!
[27...b3! 28.axb3 a3 29.b4 *(29.Rxe6 fxe6 30.b4 Bc3)* 29...a2 *(29...Bc3? 30.Ne4 Bxb4 31.Rb7)* 30.Rxe6 fxe6 *(30...fxe6!? 31.Nb3□ a1Q 32.Nxa1 Bxa1=)* 31.Nb3 Be5 32.Re1 Bc7 with a probable draw.]
[27...b3! 28.Nxb3 -0.51/27 *(28.axb3!= 0.08/26 a3 29.b4)* 28...axb3∓ 29.axb3 Bc5∓]
[27...Bxa2 28.Rd7 Bf6 29.Ne4+-]
[27...b3= 0.05/22 28.axb3 a3]
28.Rb7!± Bc3? 1.91/24
[28...b3 was probably a rescue after all but it required extremely precise play: 29.axb3 a3 30.c7 Kg7! *(30...a2 31.Rb8 Kf8 32.Re1! a1Q 33.Rxa1 Bxa1 34.Nc4 Ke7 35.Rxc8 Bxc8 36.Nb6+-)* 31.Ne4 a2 32.Rb4! *(32.Nd6 Bh3!)* 32...Bh3!! *(32...a1Q? 33.Rxa1 Bxa1 34.Nd6! Rf8 35.Rb8+-)* 33.Rd1 *(33.Rxd4 Bxf1 34.Ra4 Rxc7 35.Rxa2 Rc1=)* 33...a1Q 34.Rxa1 Bxa1 35.Nd6 Ra8 36.Ra4! *(36.Ra4!? Rg8 37.c8R Bxc8 38.Rxa1=)* 36...Rg8! 37.c8Q Intending Qxg8+! and mate. Bxc8 38.Nxc8 Rxc8 39.Rxa1 Xf5 is the strong threat. Rb8! 40.Rb1 Rb4 , and Black should not lose.]
[28...b3!± 0.44/23 29.axb3 a3]

(Diagram)

This costs Black the game. **29.c7!+- Bxd2 30.Rd1 Bc3** 4.20/29
[30...b3 1.67/26 31.axb3 *(31.Rxd2*



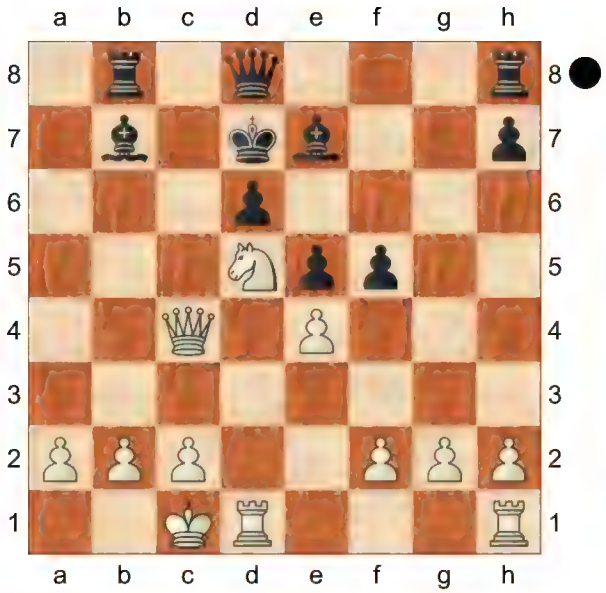
bxa2 32.Rd1 Kg7±) 31...Bf4]
31.Rd8+ Kg7 32.Rxc8 Bxc8 33.Rb8 Bh3 34.c8Q
[34.c8B Be5 35.Rb5 *(35.Rxb4 Bxc8 36.Rxa4 Be6±)* 35...Bxc8 36.Rxe5 Be6+-]
34...Bxc8 35.Rxc8 Endgame. ⊥. KR-KB
35...Kf6 36.Rc5 a3 4.63/28
[36...Ke7 3.21/23 was called for. 37.a3 f6 38.axb4 Bxb4]
37.Kf1 Ke6 38.Ke2 aiming for Xg4.
38...Kd6 39.Rc4 Threatens to win with Xb1. **39...Kd5 40.Kd3** White is clearly winning. **40...Be1 41.Re4 Bc3 42.Kc2 f5 43.Rh4 Be5 44.Kb3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.38.
Mistake: --- Black=4
Inaccurate: --- Black=2
OK: White=14 Black=5
Best: White=2 Black=2
Strong: White=1 Black=3
1-0

B33

□ **Carnicelli,Valerio** **2427**
■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2595**
Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Jan Late blitz (3)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5
11.Bxb5 11.g3 is setting a new trend.
11.g3 setzt einen neuen Trend.
11...axb5 12.Nxb5 Rb8
[12...fxe4? 13.Nbc7++-]
[12...Qa5+?! 13.c3±]
13.Nbc7+ Excellent horsemanship.
13...Kd7 Strongly threatening ...Rb7.
14.Qh5!
[14.exf5 Rb7 *(14...Rxb2 15.f6=)* 15.Qh5 Nb8 *(15...Rxc7 16.Qxf7+ Ne7 17.f6∓* Pin *)* 16.Qxf7+ Kc6-+]
14...Ne7 White is slightly better. **15.Qxf7 Kc6 16.Nxe7+N** -1.08/21
[16.c4= 0.24/20 keeps the balance.]
[16.b4 Nxd5 17.b5+ Rxb5 18.exd5+ Rxd5 19.Qxd5+ Kxc7 20.Rb1 Qe8 21.0-0 Qe6 22.Qa5+ Kd7 23.Rb8 Qc4 24.Rd1 Rg8 25.Qxe5 Rxg2+ 26.Kxg2 Qg4+ 27.Qg3 Qxd1 B2 Nh3-Deflesselle,T 6: World Championship Match 1985]
16...Bxe7∓
[16...Kxc7? 17.Ng6+ *(17.Nxf5+ Qd7∓)* 17...Bd7 18.Nxh8+-]
[16...Qxe7?! 17.Qc4+ Kb7 18.Nd5±]
17.Qc4+ Kd7 18.Nd5 Qa5+N
[Vorgänger: 18...Bb7 19.0-0-0 -1.75/19 *(19.0-0∓* -0.99/19 was called for. *)*

(Diagram)



19...Bxd5!-+ 20.Rxd5 Qb6 21.Qa4+ -2.91/19 *(⌓21.Qc3* -1.87/20 *)*
21...Ke6-+ 22.b3 Qxf2 23.exf5+ Qxf5 24.g4 Qf3 Jung,G (2001)-Gebur,T Bremen-ch op 2013 (1) 1-0]
19.b4 Ba6 0.01/21
[19...Qa7!∓ -0.60/22 20.0-0 *(20.exf5 Ba6∓)* 20...Ba6]
20.Qc3↑ White has the initiative.
20...Qd8 White must now prevent ...Qc8.
21.Qh3 Qc8 0.14/21
[21...Rf8∓ -0.42/20]
22.0-0-0!
[22.exf5 Bg5 23.f6+ Kd8 24.Qxc8+ Kxc8∓]
[22.Qxf5+ Kd8 23.Qxc8+ *(23.Qf7 Rb7-+)* 23...Rxc8-+]
22...Kd8? 3.44/18
[22...Be2!= 0.00/17 and Black has nothing to worry.]

(Diagram)

23.Nxe7? 0.07/19
[23.Qh6!+- 3.44/18 Bc4 24.Qg7]
23...Kxe7 24.Qh4+ Kd7 25.Qf6 Rb6 Really sharp!

[25...Rxb4? 26.Rxd6+ *(26.Qxd6+ Ke8+-)* 26...Kc7 27.Rc6+ *(27.Rxa6 Qxa6 28.Qxa6 Rhb8+-; 27.exf5 Qb7+-; 27.Qxe5 Rxe4 28.Qc5+ Kb8+-)* 27...Kb8 28.Qd6+ *(28.Rxc8+ Rxc8 29.Qd6+ Ka7+-; 28.Rxa6 Re8+-; 28.exf5 Qd8+-; 28.Qxe5+ Ka8+-)* 28...Ka7 29.Qc5+ *(29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Qxb4 fxe4+-)* 29...Ka8 30.Rxc8++-]

26.Qxe5 aiming for a4.

[26.exf5? perishes. Re8 27.b5 Bxb5-+ *(27...Rxb5 28.Qxd6#)*]

26...fxe4 Hoping for ...Qxc2+! **27.Qg7+**

[27.Qd4!? Qb8 28.a3±]

27...Kc6 28.Rd4 And now Rhd1! would win. **28...Qf8 29.Qa7** -1.63/18

This move loses the game for White.

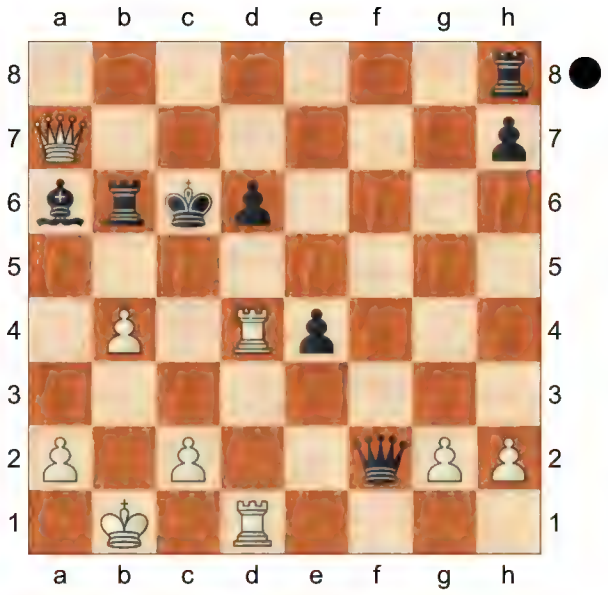
[29.Qg4∓ -0.34/19]

29...Qf4+-+ 30.Kb1 -3.12/18

[⌓30.Kd1 -2.07/20 Qxf2 31.Rxe4]

30...Qxf2 31.Rhd1 -6.40/21

[31.c3 -3.58/19 Rhb8 *(31...Qxg2 32.Rxd6+* Decoy *Kxd6 33.Qxb6+ Ke7 34.Qa7+ Ke8 35.Qa8+ Ke7 36.Qa7+ Ke8 37.Qb8+ Kf7 38.Qa7+ Ke8=)* 32.Rc1]



31...Rxb4+!! Black is clearly winning.

32.Ka1 Rxd4 33.Qxa6+ Kd5 34.Qb5+ Ke6 35.Qb3+ Ke5 36.Qb5+ d5 37.Qb2 Rc8 38.Kb1 Qe3 39.a4 Qc3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.84/ Black=0.16 (very precise) .

Loses game:	---	
Black=1		
Missed win:	White=1	---
Mistake:	White=4	
Black=2		
Inaccurate:	White=3	---
OK:	White=6	
Black=8		
Best:	White=4	
Black=6		
Strong:	White=2	---

0-1

B33

□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2772**

■ **Karjakin,Sergey** **2780**

Tata Steel-A 75th (10) 23.01.2013

[Krasenkow,M, MH]

1.e4 Krasenkow,Michal Krasenkow, Michal Krasenkow,Michal Krasenkow,

Michal: 'Krasenkow,M' **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6** This line (and the whole 6.♗g5 system in the Petrosian QI), topical about a decade ago, was finally considered harmless. Now we have some new practical examples at the GM level but they hardly change that verdict. **9...gxf6** A new twist. **10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.c3 Bg7 13.Qh5 0-0 14.0-0**

[14.exf5 Bxd5 15.f6

A) 15...e4 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Be2 Re5 18.Qh6 b4 *(18...Qg5 19.Qxg5 Rxg5 20.Nc2 Be6 21.Ne3 Kxg7 22.a4 b4)*

A1) 19.Nc4 Bxc4 20.Bxc4 bxc3 21.bxc3 Rc5 *(21...d5 22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qxa6 Rxc4)* 22.Bb3 Na5 23.0-0 Nxb3 24.axb3 Rxc3;

A2) 19.Nc2 bxc3 20.bxc3

A2a) 20...Qg5 21.Qxg5 Rxg5 22.0-0 *(22.0-0-0 Bxa2 23.Rxd6 Rc5 24.Kd2)* 22...Be6 23.Rfd1 Rc5 24.Rxd6 Rxc3 25.Ne3 Nb4 26.a4 Nc2 27.Nxc2;

A2b) 20...Be6 21.Ne3 Qg5 22.Qxg5 Rxg5 23.Kd2 Rb8 24.Rhb1 Rxb1 25.Rxb1 Ra5 26.Rb6 Rxa2+ 27.Ke1 Ra1+;

B) 15...h6 16.fxg7 *(16.Qf5 e4 17.fxg7 Re8 18.Bc2 Re5 19.Qf4 Qg5)* 16...Kxg7 17.Nc2 *(17.Qf5 Qg5)* 17...Be6 18.Ne3 d5 19.h4 Qf6 20.Bf5 Bxf5 21.Nxf5+ Kh7 22.Rd1 Rad8 23.Rh3 Qg6 24.Qxg6+ fxg6 25.Ne3 d4 26.Nc2 Rf4]

[14.Nc2 fxe4 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Nf6+ Rxf6 17.Bxc6 Rc8 18.Bb7 Rb8 19.Bxa6 Rb6 20.Nb4 Qa8 21.a4 Bf7 22.Qf3 Rxa6]

14...f4 15.Rfd1

[15.Nc2 f5 16.Ncb4 Nxb4 17.Nxb4 a5 18.exf5 *(18.Nc2 Qd7)* 18...Bf7 19.Qh3 Qd7

A) 20.Nc6

A1) 20...Bc4 21.Bxc4+ bxc4 22.Qf3 Ra6 *(22...d5 23.Qxd5+ Qxd5 24.Ne7+)* 23.Qd5+ Kh8 24.Nxa5;

A2) 20...Qxc6 21.f6 e4 22.fxg7 Kxg7;

B) 20.Nc2 d5 21.Rad1 Ra6 22.Qg4 *(22.a4 Rh6 23.Bxb5)* 22...Rh6 23.Qe2 f3 24.gxf3 Qe7 25.f4 e4 26.Bxb5 Bh5 27.f3 Qc5+ 28.Ne3 exf3 29.Qd3 f2+ 30.Kxf2 Bxd1 31.Rxd1 Kh8]

[15.Rad1

A) 15...f5 16.exf5 *(16.Bc2)* 16...Bxd5 17.f6 Rxf6 18.Bxh7+ Kf8 19.Rxd5 Ne7 20.Qf3 Nxd5 21.Qxd5;

B) 15...Kh8]

15...Rb8 The position has been considerably simplified. It is hardly possible for White to take advantage of Black's backward c7-pawn although Black should be careful.

[15...Ne7 16.Nxe7+ *(16.Nc2 Bxd5 17.exd5 f5)* 16...Qxe7 17.Nc2

A) 17...Kh8 18.Nb4 Qd7 19.h3 a5 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 f5 22.a4 bxa4 23.Bc2 Rab8 24.Bxa4 Qc7 25.Qe2 e4 26.Bc6 Be5 27.Kh1 Rg8 28.Rg1 Rxg2 29.Rxg2 f3 30.Qf1 fxg2+ 31.Qxg2 Rg8 *(31...Rxb2)* 32.Qf1 Qf7 33.c4 Qh5 34.Ra3 f4 35.f3 *(35.Bd7 f3)* 35...Bd4;

B) 17...Qd7 18.Qe2 Kh8 19.a4 bxa4 20.Bxa6 f3 21.gxf3 Bh6 22.Ne3 Rg8+ 23.Kh1 Bf4 24.Rg1

Qe7 25.Rxg8+ Rxg8 26.Rg1 Rxg1+ 27.Kxg1 Bh3 28.Ng2 Qg5 29.Qf1 Bc1;

C) 17...Qd7 18.h3 *(18.Qe2 Kh8 19.a4 bxa4 20.Bxa6 f3 21.gxf3 Bh6 22.Ne3 Rg8+ 23.Kh1 Bf4 24.Rg1 Qe7 25.Rxg8+ Rxg8 26.Rg1 Rxg1+ 27.Kxg1 Bh3 28.Ng2 Qg5 29.Qf1 Bc1)* 18...Kh8]

[15...f5 16.exf5 *(16.Bc2)* 16...Bxd5 17.f6 Bh6 *(17...Rxf6 18.Bxh7+ Kf8 19.Rxd5 Ne7 20.Be4)* 18.Qxh6 Ra7 19.Bxb5 *(19.Bxh7+ Rxh7 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Rxd5 f3)*

A) 19...Bxg2 20.Rxd6 *(20.Bc4+)* 20...Qxd6 21.f7+;

B) 19...Rxf6 20.Qh5 Bf7 21.Qg5+ Rg6 22.Qxd8+ Nxd8 23.Bd3]

[15...Kh8 16.Nc2 f5 *(16...Rg8 17.a4 bxa4 18.Rxa4 a5)* 17.exf5 Bxd5 18.f6 Bh6 19.Qxh6 Ra7 20.Bxb5 Rxf6 21.Qh5 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 axb5]

16.Nc2 Qd7 17.h3

[17.Qe2 Bxd5 18.exd5 Ne7]

17...a5

[17...f5 18.Ncb4 Nxb4 19.Nxb4 a5

A) 20.Nc2 d5 21.exf5 *(21.exd5 Qxd5)* 21...Bf7 22.Qg4 Qc6;

B) 20.exf5

B1) 20...Bxf5 21.Nc6 Qxc6 *(21...Rbe8 22.Bxb5; 21...Qxc6 22.Bxf5 h6 23.Qg6 Rf6 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Be4 Qe8 26.Bd5)* 22.Bxf5 h6 23.Qg6 Rf6 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Be4 Qe8 26.Bd5;

B2) 20...Bf7 21.Qh4 axb4 22.f6 Bg6 23.fxg7 *(23.Bxg6 Bxf6)* 23...Qxg7 24.Bxg6 Qxg6 25.cxb4 Kh8 26.Qg4 *(26.Rd5 Rf5)* 26...Qe4 27.Qh4]

18.Na3

[18.Be2 f5 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.Qf3 Rg5]

18...b4

[18...Na7 19.Bc2 *(19.c4)* 19...Rfc8 20.Bb3 a4 21.Bc2 Nc6 22.Rd2 Ne7 23.Nb4]

19.Nb5 bxc3

[19...Ne7]

20.bxc3 White prevents ...c7-c5 but Black's position is very solid, and he decides to wait. **20...Ne7**

[20...Rb7 21.a4 Ne7 22.Bc4]

21.Ndc7 Rbc8 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.a4 Kh8 24.Bc2 Rc6 25.Rd2 Nc8 26.Rad1 Qe7 27.Bb3 Rf6

[27...Bf6 28.c4 Rg8 29.Qf3 *(29.c5 Rxc5 30.Nxd6 Nxd6 31.Rxd6 Qg7 32.Qg4)* 29...Qg7 30.c5 dxc5 *(30...Rxc5 31.Bxe6)* 31.Rd7 Qg6 32.Rc7]

28.c4 Rh6

[28...Bf8 29.c5 Rxc5 30.Nxd6 Nxd6 31.Rxd6 Qxd6 32.Rxd6 Bxd6 33.Qe8+ Bf8 *(33...Rf8 34.Qd7)* 34.Bxe6]

[28...Rf8 29.c5 dxc5 30.Rd7 Qf6 31.Rc7]

29.Qf3 Bf8 30.c5

[30.Qc3 Qg5]

30...Rxc5

[30...dxc5? 2.83/22 30...Rxc5 0.95 31.Rd7 *(31.Rd8)* 31...Qg5 32.Rf7 Be7 33.Rd7

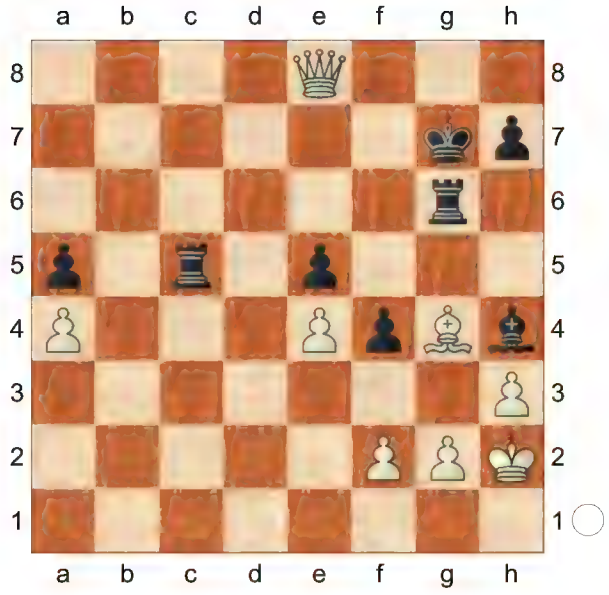
A) 33...c4 34.Na7! Rd6 35.Rfxe7 2.22/21 *(35.Rc7; ⌓35.Rc7!* 3.82/23 *Nxa7 36.Rfxe7)* 35...Nxe7+- 36.Rxd6 cxb3 37.Qxb3 Rg6 38.Qf3!;

B) 33...Rf6 3.25/20 was worth a try.;

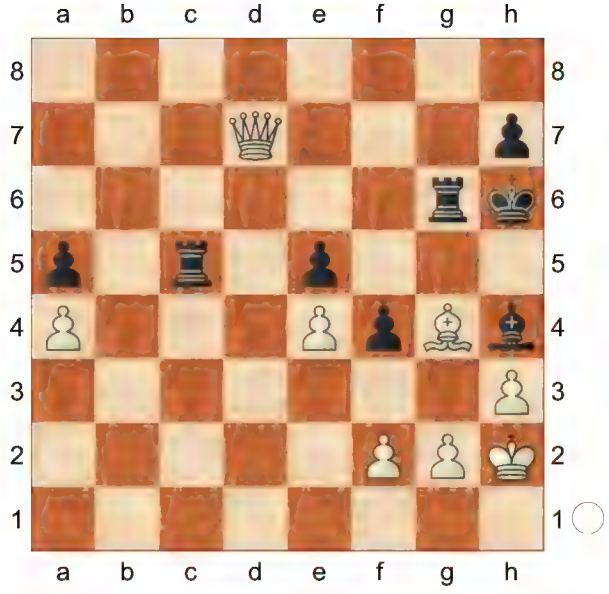
C) 33...Kg8? 5.73/19 34.Na7+- Kxf7 35.Nxc6]

31.Nxd6 Nxd6?! A sudden inaccuracy. Black gives White a chance to make progress. It was necessary to remove the rook from d8, say, **32.Rxd6! Qxd6** 1.91/8
[32...Rc1 2.05/11 32...Rc8 1.08 33.Ra6]
[32...Rc8± 0.97/11]
33.Rxd6+- Bxd6 34.Qd3 Rc6? 3.59/17
[34...Bf8?! 3.52/11 34...Be7 1.28 35.Qd8 Kg8?! 36.Qd7 Rf6
A) 37.Qe8!? leads to a complicated, roughly equal positional fight: Kg7 38.Bxe6 Rc7 ...Re7 would now be deadly. 39.Bf5 Bd6 40.Qd8 *(40.Kh2 Re7 41.Qd8 Bb4)*;
B) 37.Bxe6+ Kh8 38.Bf5∓ 0-1 (32) Bagirov,R (2516)-Graf,A (2623) Batumi 2002 CBM 090 [Ftacnik,L] Bg7 39.h4!?]
[34...Be7
A) 35.Kh2± And now Qd7 would win. Kg7;
B) 35.Kf1 0.98/12 35.Bd1 1.53 Kg7 36.Qd7 0.58/9 *(*Better is *36.Kg1!±* 1.39/14 *)* 36...Kf7 0.99/14 *(36...Rc1+±* 0.58/9 is more appropriate. *37.Ke2 Kf7)*;
C) 35.Bd1± 1.60/13;
D) 35.Qd7 2.01/11 35...Rc1+! 36.Kh2 Bh4
D1) 37.Qd6? 0.14/9 37.Bxe6 1.84 Rf6 38.Qxe5 *(38.Qd8+* 0.00/12 38.Qxe5 1.21 *Kg7 39.Bxe6 Bxf2 40.Qe7+ Kg6 41.Bf5+ Kg5 42.Qg7+∞* 1/2 (42) Sokolov,I (2647)-Leko,P (2707) Prague 2002 CBM 089 [Ftacnik,L] *Rg6 43.Qe7+!≅ Rf6)* 38...Rf1 39.Bxe6 aiming for Qb8+. Rxf2 40.Bf5 f3! 41.Qe8+ Kg7 42.Qe7+ Kh6 43.Qxh7+ Kg5 44.Qg7+∞ 0.38/12 1/2 (47) Almeida Quintana,O (2452)-Gongora Reyes,M (2454) Havana 2005 *(44.Kh1=* 0.00/17 *Rxg2 45.Bg4)* 44...Kf4± 45.Qg4+! Ke3 46.Qxh4∓ Rd6 47.Qg5+ Ke2 48.h4 Rxg2+ 49.Qxg2+ fxg2 50.Kxg2 Ke3 51.Kg3 Hoping for h5. Rd4!?;
D2) 37.Qd2? 0.00/25 37.Qe8+ 1.72 Rf1! ...Rg6 is the strong threat. 38.Qxa5 Rxf2 39.Qxe5+ Rf6 40.Kg1!?∓ Inhibits Rf1+.
D2a) 40...f3? 5.96/15 40...Re2 0.00 41.Qxf6+! Bxf6 42.Kxf2 fxg2? 1.95/11 *(42...Bd4+* 4.92/8 is a better defense. *43.Kxf3 e5)* 43.Bxe6 1/2 (32) Cebalo,M (2512)-Van der Wiel,J (2503) Hoogeveen 2005;
D2b) ≤40...Re2 41.Bc4 Re1+ 42.Bf1↑ 1/2 (49) Akobian,V (2610)-Roussel Roozmon,T (2486) Montreal 2008 Kg7 43.a5 f3 (-> ...f2+) 44.g4! f2+ 45.Kg2 Threatens to win with a6. Re3! 46.g5 Bxg5! 47.a6∞ 1/2 (27) Werle,J (2563)-Swinkels,R (2511) Netherlands 2010 Bf4;
D3) 37.Bxe6 Intending Qe8+ and mate. 37...Rg6≅
D3a) 38.Bg4 0.00/19 38.Qe8+ 1.48 h5!∓ *(38...Bxf2?* 4.47/7 38...h5 0.00 *39.Qe8+ Kg7 40.Qxe5+ Rf6! 41.Qg5+ Kf7!! 42.Bh5+ Ke6!* White must now prevent ...Bg3+. *43.Qd5+ Ke7 44.Qe5+ Re6= 45.Qxf4)* 39.Qe8+ Kh7 40.Qf7+! Kh6 41.Qf8+ Kh7! 1/2 (21) Gelfand,

B (2695)-Lautier,J (2660) Biel 1997 CBM 060 [Gelfand,B]; **D3b)** 38.Qe8+! Kg7 39.Bg4! Rc5



40.Qd7+! Kh6 2.64/21 *(⌓40...Kf8 1.67/12 41.Bh5 Rc3)*



41.Qd2!+- 1/2 (23) Bacrot,E-Gershon,A/Bermuda 1999/ (23) Rgc6]

[34...Be7 1.74/11 was necessary. 35.Bd1 Kg8]

35.Qb5+- Rc1+ 2.26/7

[⌓35...Rc7 3.79/10 36.Qb8+ *(36.Qxa5 Rg6+-)* 36...Kg7]

36.Kh2+- Rf6 37.Qe8+ The queen invasion along the a-file is absolutely harmless; it is rook that should go there.

[But not 37.Qxa5 Rf8 38.Qb6 Bb8 39.Bxe6 Rc7]

37...Bf8

[37...Rf8 38.Qd7 Bb8 39.Bxe6± 1-0 (51) Szabo,V (2380)-Manheimer,G (800) Lechenicher SchachServer 2009 Rc7?! 40.Qd6 Rcc8 41.Qd5 Rce8 1/2 (20) Gelfand,B (2695)-Karpov,A (2745) Dortmund 1997 CBM 060 [Gelfand,B] 42.Bf5! Re7 Against Qd7 43.Qxa5± B.Gelfand]

38.Bxe6 f3

[38...Rc2=

A) 39.f3 Kg7? 5.31/12 *(39...Rc7 3.06/10)* 40.Qd7++- Kh6 41.Bf5 Prevents Rg6 Bg7 42.Qd8;

B) 39.Bf5 Rxf2± 6.05/20 1-0 (57) Zhigalko,A (2582)-Rodshtein,M (2642) Istanbul TUR 2012 *(⌓39...f3 3.88/17 40.Qd7 Rh6)* 40.Qd8!?+- still may be enough for a draw Kg7 41.Qc7+ Rf7 42.Qxe5+! Rf6! 43.Qc7+ Rf7 44.Qc4 Rf6 45.Kg1;

C) ⌓39.Qd8 Kg7 40.Qd7+ Kh8!? 41.Bf5!? Bg7 42.Qe8+ Rf8 43.Qh5 h6 7.53/11 *(⌓43...Rxf5 4.30/5 44.Qxf5 f3 45.Qxf3 Rc6)* 44.Qg6+- Kg8 45.Qh7+ looks more logical but the problem is that White can prepare d4-d5 in reply to ...c7-c5: Kf7 46.Bg6+ Kf6 47.Bh5]

39.g4 Rf1 40.Kg3 Rg1+ 41.Kh4 Kg7

[41...Rh6+ 42.Kg5 Rg6+ 43.Kf5]

42.g5 Rf4+ 43.Kh5 Finally! But the position has changed in Black's favour so he now easily holds his ground.

43...Rg2 44.Bf5
[44.Bd5]
44...Rxf5! 45.exf5 Rxf2 46.Qxe5+ ½-½

		B33
□	**Gonzalez Garcia,Jose**	**2459**
■	**Asis Gargatagli,Hipolito**	**2493**

Catalunya-chT Gp1 Final (1.1) 09.03.24
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 a5 12...0-0 is more fashionable. 12...0-0 ist modischer.
13.b3N
[13.Be2 Bg5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qd3 Be6 *(15...Rb8 16.Rad1 g6 17.b3 Be6 18.Bf3 Rb7 19.Qe2 Ne7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Rd3 h5 22.Rfd1 Rd8 23.Ne3 Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Rdd7 25.Qh6 Qf8 26.Qxf8+ Kxf8 27.Rxd6 Rbc7 28.h4 Ke7 29.Ra6 Rc5 30.Kf1* 9.Nd2 a5/ 14.Qc2 Ngf6 15.Bd3 (2723)-Kavakul,M (2781) Germany corr 1988 (2) 1-0 *)* 16.Rad1 Ra7 17.h3 g6 18.Bg4 Qb8 19.Nde3 Be7 20.b3 h5 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.g3 g5 23.Nf5 exf5 24.Qd5+ Kh7 25.Qxc6 f4 26.gxf4 gxf4 27.Kh2 Qa8 9.♘d2 a5/ 14.♕c2 ♘gf6 1 (2690)-Keres Analysis (2244) 002 Linz 2014 (1.1) 1-0 28.Qxa8 Rfxa8 29.Rd5 Rc8 30.Kg2 Kg7 31.Rfd1 Kf7 32.Ne1 Rc5 33.Rxc5 dxc5 34.Rd5 a4 35.Nd3 axb3 36.axb3 Ra3 37.Nxe5+ Ke6 38.Nd3 Rxb3 39.Nxf4+ Kf7 40.Rxh5 Kg7 41.Rd5 Kf7 42.Rd7 Ke8 9.Nd2 a5/ 14.Qc2 Ngf6 15.Bd3 (2690)-Keres Analysis (2244) 002 Linz 2014 (1.1) 1-0]
[13.g3 0-0 14.Bg2 g6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.0-0 h5 17.Qd3 h4 18.Rad1 h3 19.Bh1 Be6 20.Qxd6 Rac8 21.f4 Rfd8 22.fxe5 Qg5 23.Qc5 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nxe5 25.Qe3 Qxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Nxc4 27.Nd5 Nxb2 Nurgaliyev,S (2016)-Nguyen,T (2534) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (1) 0-1]
13...0-0 14.g3 Bg5 15.Bg2 White has an edge. **15...Ne7 16.Nde3 Ra6 17.0-0 Bxe3 18.Nxe3 Nc6N**
[Vorgänger: 18...f5 1.36/20 18...Nc6 -0.02 19.exf5 Nxf5 1.72/24 *(19...Kh8±* 1.33/21 *)* 20.Nxf5+- Bxf5

21.Qd5+! Kh8

(Diagram)

22.Rad1 0.97/24 *(⌓22.f4!* 1.55/22 *Qb6+ 23.Kh1)* 22...Qb6 23.Rd2 Rb8? 3.05/21 *(23...a4±* 1.00/22 *)* 24.Rfd1+- And now c5! would win. Qc7 Szajbely,Z (1911)-Huszar,R (1846) HUN-chT U18 Miskolc 2009 (7.5) 1-0]
19.Qd3 Nd4 20.Rad1 Bb7 0.77/19

[20...a4= -0.11/22]
21.Nf5± Nxf5 22.exf5 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Qf6 24.Qe4 g6 25.fxg6 Qxg6 1.49/21
[⌓25...hxg6 1.08/21 26.Rd5 Kg7]
26.Qb7 Rfa8 27.Rfe1 Kg7 28.Rd2 R8a7 29.Qb8 White has more active pieces. **29...Ra8 30.Qb5 h6 31.c5 dxc5 32.Qxc5 Qc6+ 33.Qxc6 Rxc6 34.Rxe5+-** Endgame. KRR-KRR
34...Ra7 35.Rdd5? 0.17/22
[35.Rb5+- 2.76/21]
35...a4= 36.Re4 Rc2 37.Rxb4 Rxa2 38.Rg4+ Kh7 39.b4
[39.Rxa4 simplifies R7xa4 40.bxa4 Rxa4 41.h3]
39...a3 40.Ra5 Rb7
[Not 40...Rxa5? 41.bxa5 Re2 42.a6+-]
41.Ra6 Rb2 42.Rh4
[42.Rxa3 simplifies R7xb4 43.Rxb4 Rxb4 44.Ra7]
42...Kg7 43.Rhxh6 Strongly threatening Rhb6. **43...a2 44.Rh5** Hoping for Rg5+.
44...Rd7 45.Rg5+ Kh7 46.h4 f6? 4.95/20 Loses the game.
[46...Rdd2± 1.01/27 is a better chance.]
47.Rga5+-
[47.Rxf6 a1Q *(47...a1B 48.Rh5+ Kg7 49.Rff5±)* 48.Rf4 Rb1-+ *(48...Qa8+? 49.Kh3-+; 48...Qd1? 49.Kh2-+)*]
47...Rdd2 48.Rxf6 Kg7 49.Rb6 White threatens Ra7+ and mate.
49...Rxf2+ 50.Kh3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.26 (precise) .
Loses game: --- Black=1
Missed win: White=1 --- Mistake: --- Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=2
OK: White=18 Black=20
Best: White=3 Black=4
1-0

B33

□ **De Boer,Eelke** **2396**
■ **Zhigalko,Sergei** **2572**

Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Feb Late blitz (3) *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nab1 Rb8N Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5
A) 12...0-0 13.Bc4 Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 *(14...Be6 15.Qd3 a5 16.c3* Quickstarter Guide-Sveshnikov Lifetime Repertoires: s 1. e4 2023 *)* 15.c3 Be6 *(15...bxc3 16.Nbxc3*

Rb8 17.Rb1 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Bd3 9) Sveshnikov 2023 *)*
16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Nbc3 a5 18.b3 Rc8 19.Qe2 Rc5 20.Nxb4 axb4 21.Nb5 Be7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rad1 Qb6 24.Rd2 g6 25.Rfd1 Rd8 26.g3 Kg7 27.h4 Nasuta,G (2561)-Ris,R (2457) Erkenschwick 2019 ½-½;
B) 12...Bg5 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nc4 Be6 15.a5 g6 16.Ra4 Rb8 17.Ncb6 Nxa5 18.Rxa5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Rxb6 20.Bxa6 b3 21.cxb3 Rxb3 22.Ra2 Qb6 23.0-0 Urquhart Jr,J (2461)-2.♘f3 a6 3.♘c3 (2415) 41st Festival MTO 2008 [3] ½-½]

10.a4 bxa4 0.85/18
[10...b4!= 0.28/22 11.Nd5 Be7 12.Bxf6 Bxf6]
11.Nxa4 -0.42/20
[11.Rxa4± 0.85/18 Bxf6 is the strong threat. Rxb2 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nd5 *(13.Bxa6 Bxa6 14.Rxa6 Nb4=)*]
11...Be7 0.19/26
[Black should play 11...Qa5+!∓ -0.42/20 12.Bd2 Qc7]
12.Bxf6= Bxf6 13.Nbc3 0-0N
[Vorgänger: 13...Nb4 14.Bc4 Qc7 15.b3 Be6 16.Nd5 -0.23/24 *(16.Nb2!±* 0.40/21 *)* 16...Nxd5= 17.exd5 -0.70/21 *(17.Bxd5=* -0.21/26 was preferrable. *Bxd5 18.Qxd5)* 17...Bd7∓ 18.0-0 Bb5 19.Be2 0-0 Varga,Z (2508)-Parligras,M (2511) ROM-chT div-A 2006 (3) 0-1]
14.Bc4 Bg5 15.0-0 Kh8 16.b3 a5 17.Nb5 Be7 18.Nac3 A dynamic duo of knights. **18...f5 19.exf5** -0.02/26
[19.Nd5± 0.60/22]
19...Bxf5 0.38/21
[19...Nb4= -0.02/26 is superior.]
20.Nd5± Bg5 21.c3 Bg6 22.Ra2 e4 0.89/22
[22...Bf7= 0.29/22 keeps the balance.]
23.Re1 0.04/22
[23.Nd4± 0.89/22 Nxd4 24.Qxd4]
23...Ne5= 24.Bf1 -0.48/21
[24.Nd4= 0.02/22 Qc8 25.Qe2]
24...Rb7 0.00/21
[24...Nd3∓ -0.48/21 25.Bxd3 exd3]
25.c4 -0.46/19
[25.Nd4= 0.00/21 Qe8 26.f4 *(26.Rxa5 Qf7=)* 26...exf3 *(26...Bxf4 27.Nxf4 Rxf4 28.Rxa5=)* 27.Nxf3]
25...Rbf7!∓ 26.Nbc3 -1.29/19
[White should try 26.Nd4∓ -0.40/20 Qc8 27.Nb6]

26...Bh4!∓ 27.Nxe4 -4.36/18
[27.g3∓ -1.38/19 was the only defense. Nf3+ 28.Kh1]
27...Bxe4-+ 28.Rxe4 And now g3 would win. **28...Bxf2+ 29.Kh1 Bc5 30.Be2 Rf2 31.Ra1 Qg5** Prevents Qd2 **32.g3 Qf5 33.Rh4** -7.78/22
[⌓33.Rf4 -4.61/20 Rxf4 34.Nxf4 Qe4+ 35.Ng2]
33...Ng6? -0.41/21
[Better is 33...g5-+ -7.78/22 34.Qb1

Qxb1+ *(34...gxh4? 35.Qxf5 R8xf5 36.Nf4-+)* 35.Rxb1 gxh4]

34.Rh5 -#6/17

[34.Bd3∓ -0.41/21 Qe6 35.Bxg6 *(35.Qh5 h6∓)* 35...Qxg6 36.Qb1]

White is weak on the dark squares

34...Qe4+ 35.Bf3 R2xf3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.78/ Black=0.51.

Loses game: White=2 ---
Missed win: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=6 Black=5
Inaccurate: White=2 Black=4
OK: White=7 Black=9
Best: White=1 ---
Strong: --- Black=1

0-1

B33

□ **Martins,Bruno Andre Leite 2337**
■ **Fier,Alexandr 2587**

POR-chT Soure (6.16) 19.07.2024

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Rb8! is now more promising than 12...Bg5. im Vergleich zu 12...Lg5 vielversprechender. **13.Be2 Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 15.Ncb4N**

[15.Bg4 Bb7 16.Qd3 *(16.Ncb4 Nxb4 17.cxb4 g6 18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 Bc6 20.Be2 Bxa4 21.Qxa4 f5 22.exf5 Rxf5* Giri,A (2783)-Carlsen, M (2835) 139/(50) Wijk aan Zee 2019 *)* 16...Ne7 17.Nxe7 Qxe7 18.Nb4 Qc7 19.Rfd1 a5 20.Nd5 Qc4 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3]

[15.a3 Ne7 16.Ncb4 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Be6 18.Qd3 Qc8 19.Rad1 a5 20.Qg3 h6 21.h3 Qc6 22.Qd3 Qd7 23.Qg3 Qc6 24.Qd3 Qd7 25.Qg3 10.♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 (2757)-Lozon Urena,X (2835) Goodricke op 12th 2001 (11) ½-½]

[15.Qd3 f5 16.Bf3 g6 17.Rfd1 a5 18.Nde3 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 f4 20.Nd5 Be6 Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 with 11. c3]

15...Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Bb7 Against Nc6

17.Nd5 Bc6 18.Qd3 a5 19.Rad1 g6 20.Ne3N

[Vorgänger: 20.Bf3 f5 21.Ne3 Rf6 22.Nd5 Rf8 23.Ne3 Rf6 24.Nd5 Rf8 Boskovic,D (2465)-Christiansen,L (2575) USA tt final blitz 2007 (1) ½-½]

20...Qe7 21.Qxd6 Bxe4 22.Qxe7 Bxe7 23.Bf3 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Rb7 25.Rd5 f6 26.Rfd1 Kg7 27.a4 b4 1.37/21
[27...bxa4= 0.00/26 keeps the balance. 28.Rxa5 Rfb8]

28.Rxa5 0.48/12 White is more active.
[28.c4!± 1.37/21]
28...bxc3± 29.bxc3 Rc8 30.Rb5 Ra7 The position is equal. **31.Rdb1** Rb7 would now be deadly. **31...Rxc3 32.Nd5 Rd3**
[32...Rxf3? too greedy. 33.Rb7 Rxa4 *(33...Rxb7? 34.Rxb7 Kh6 35.Rxe7+-)* 34.Rxe7+ Kh6 35.Rbb7+-]
33.Nxe7 Rxe7 34.Rb7 Rxb7 35.Rxb7+= Endgame. KR-KR **35...Kh6 36.Kg2 Ra3 37.Rf7 Kg5 38.Rxh7 Rxa4 39.Kg3 Ra1 40.Kg2** Prevents Rg1+. **40...Kf5 41.Rh4 Rd1 42.Ra4 Rd4 43.Ra6 Rh4 44.Rb6 Rh5 45.Rb4 Kg5 46.Kg3 Rh8 47.Rb5 Kf5 48.f4 Re8 49.fxe5 Rxe5 50.Rb4 Ra5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=1
Black=1
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=15
Black=13
Best: ---
Black=2
½-½

B33
□ **Mustaps,Matiss** **2365**
■ **Meskovs,Nikita** **2540**
Kuressaare Saaremaa Rapid op (7)
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.Nxb5 has lost popularity (14. Re1). verliert an Beliebtheit (14.Te1).
14...Bg7! Threatens to win with ...e4!
15.Nc3 0-0N
[15...e4
A) 16.Bc4 Ng6 17.Qh5 *(17.Ne2 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Be5 19.Ng3 Qg5 20.Qh5* Dogias,C (2550)-14.♘e4 ♖e8 15.h4 h6 16.g4 (2426) 65/8 Los Angeles 1995 ½-½ *)* 17...Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qf6 19.Rae1 *(19.Qh6 Qxc3 20.Bb3 Rg8 21.Rae1 Ke7 22.Kh1 Qg7 23.Qxg7 Rxg7 24.f3 Kf6 25.fxe4 f4 26.Bc4 Ke5 27.Rf2 a5 28.Bd3 Rb8 29.a4 Rb4 30.Ra1 h5 31.Rf3 h4 32.Kg1 Kd4 33.Kf1 Rg8* Veingold Aleksander (2664)-14.g4 hg4 15.h5 ♘h5 (1965) 102/157 Plovdiv 2008 (1) ½-½ *)* 19...Rg8 20.f4 Kf8 21.Re3 Rc8 22.Bb3 Rxc3 23.Rxc3 Qxc3 24.g3 a5 25.a4 Qf6 26.Kh1 Kg7

27.Qe2 Rc8 28.Rd1 Qc3 29.Rf1 h5 30.Qg2 Qe3 Flyckt Olsen,J (2602)-13.♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2617) Espana (ch) 76/(528) 1998 (7) 0-1; **B)** 16.Be2 0-0 17.Rb1 Ng6 18.Qd2 Re8 19.Rfe1 f4 20.Bh5 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qg5 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Rb4 Qf5 24.c4 Re5 25.Rb6 Rae8 26.Rb3 f3 27.h3 Kg7 28.gxf3 exf3 29.Rxe5 Rxe5 30.Kh2 18.Ka1 (2199)-Solomon,S (2319) 45/32 Trnava 1988 0-1]

16.Re1 e4 The position is equal. **17.Bf1 Ng6 18.Rb1N**

[Vorgänger: 18.Qh5 Qf6 19.Ne2 Against Nf4 Rfe8 20.c3 Re5 21.Nd4 Nf4 22.Qd1 Rxd5 23.Qa4 Rb8 24.Qxa6 Szczepanski,Z (2566)-Brunsek,I (2610) Umansky Memorial email 2011 ½-½]

18...Qg5 19.Qc1 Qf6 20.Na4 -0.84/20

[20.Ne2= 0.00/20 remains equal.]

20...Ne5∓ Black has strong compensation. **21.c4 Qg6** -0.22/19

[Black should play 21...Kh8∓ -0.94/17 aiming for ...Rg8. 22.Qc2 Rg8]

22.Be2!= Bh6 23.Qc3 -0.78/19

[23.Qc2= -0.29/20]

23...f4∓ 24.Kh1 f5 0.23/20

[24...Bg7∓ -1.05/20 Strongly threatening ...Ng4. 25.Qh3 f5]

25.c5 -0.99/18

[25.Nc5!= 0.23/20]

25...Bg7! 26.Qh3 Ng4! 27.Bxg4 -2.65/21

[27.Rf1∓ -0.96/18]

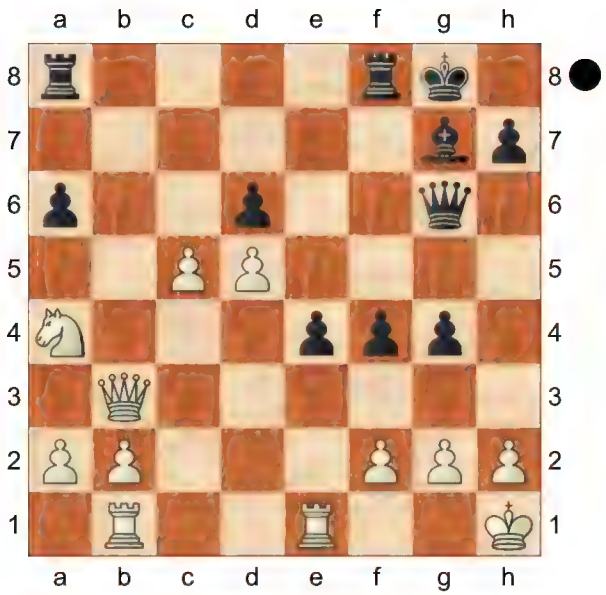
27...fxg4-+ 28.Qb3

(Diagram)

e3! -1.29/16 **29.f3∓**

[29.fxe3 f3 30.Rec1 f2-+]

29...gxf3→ Black wants a kill. **30.gxf3**



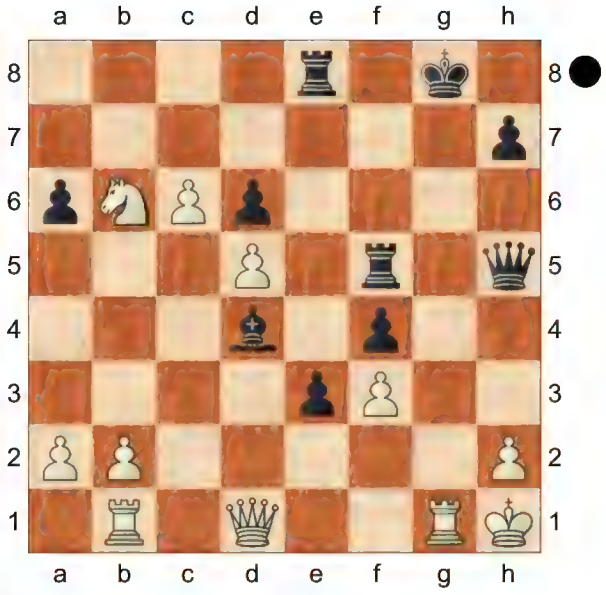
Qh5 31.Qd1 Rae8 -0.13/19 Black has more active pieces.

[31...dxc5!∓ -1.32/22 Hoping for ... Rad8. 32.Nxc5 Rad8]

32.c6= Rf5 33.Nb6 Bd4! Deflection. White is weak on the dark squares

34.Rg1+? -4.12/19

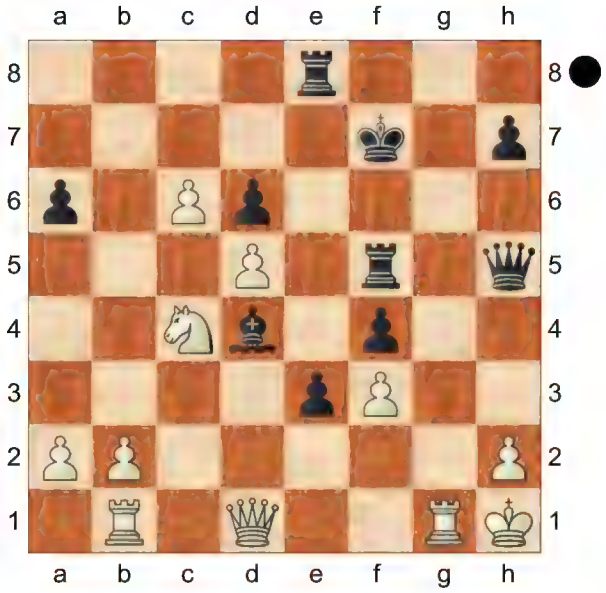
[34.Nd7!= -0.13/19]



Black continues to play with concentration. **34...Kf7!-+**

[34...Bg7? 35.c7 Rff8 36.Qe2+- *(36.c8R Rxc8 37.Nxc8 Rxc8±)*]

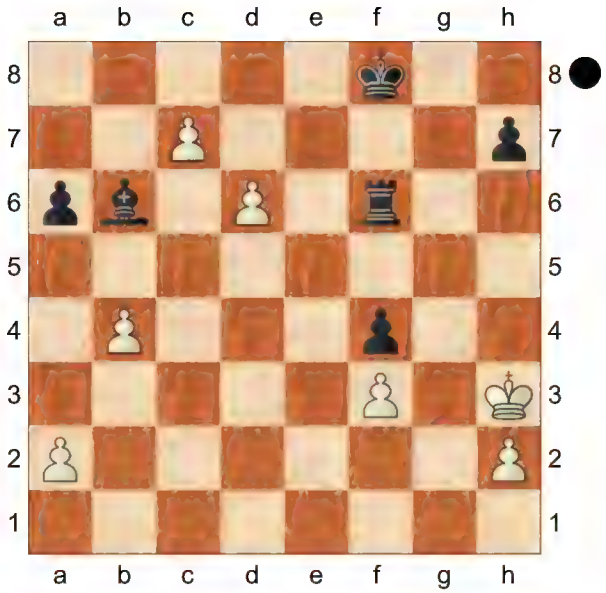
35.Nc4
[35.Qxd4 Qxf3+ 36.Rg2 Rg8 37.Rbg1 Rxg2 38.Rxg2 Rg5]



35...e2! (-> ...Qxh2+). Discovered Attack
[35...Rxd5 36.Qe2∓]
36.Nxd6+ Kf8 37.Qd3 Bxg1
[37...Rxd5 38.Nxe8 Bxg1 39.Qxe2 Qxe8 40.Qxe8+ *(40.Qxa6 Qe3±)* 40...Kxe8 41.Rxg1±]
38.Qxf5+ Qxf5 39.Nxf5 e1Q
Black is clearly winning.
[39...e1B? 40.Kxg1 Ba5 41.Rc1+-]
40.Rxe1 Rxe1 Endgame. **41.Kg2 Bb6 42.Kh3 Re5 43.d6 Rxf5 44.b4**
Black must now prevent c7. **44...Rf6 45.c7**

(Diagram)

Bxc7 46.dxc7
[46.Kg2 Rg6+]
46...Rc6 47.Kg4 Rxc7 48.Kxf4 Rc4+ 49.Ke5 Rxb4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.14 (very precise) .
Loses game: White=2 ---



Mistake: White=3
Black=4
Inaccurate: White=2 ---
OK: White=8
Black=9
Best: White=3
Black=4
Strong: White=1
Black=5
0-1

B33
□ **Almasi,Zoltan** **2672**
■ **Wang,Yue** **2626**
George Marx Memorial 4th (4) 31.07.06
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 John Cox TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.c3 Bg7 13.Nxb5** John Cox: 'WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these

piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 – as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.
WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 – as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.' John Cox: 'WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 – as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.
WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 – as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside. WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 - as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.' John Cox: 'WARNING: This is one of the most dangerous, albeit one of the most positional, versions of these piece sacrifices on b5 in the Sveshnikov. Black has little choice but to waste a tempo moving the bishop back from e6 to d7 (of course White is also wasting a

tempo, but by waiting until the bishops have moved he forces Black's to go to d7 rather than b7 – as it does after 11 Nxb5), after which White will win the f5-pawn, and the result tends to be positions where White's main compensation for Black's extra piece is not an attack so much as the two connected passed pawns on the queenside.' **13...axb5** John Cox: 'Black doesn't have to accept the sacrifice.'

[Black doesn't have to accept the sacrifice. A possible alternative is to ignore the loss of the b-pawn and carry on with Black's own plans by 13...Bxd5 0.36/21 13...axb5 -0.14 14.exd5 Ne7 , when normally the game goes 15.Na3 0-0! 16.0-0 e4 17.Bc2 (it is best for White to keep the e-pawn under observation) Ng6 0.78/25 . White has a few tempting ways to try and demonstrate his advantage, but the one Rogozenko recommends is *(17...Qb6±* 0.31/19 *18.Rb1 Qc5)* 18.Qh5± Qc8 19.f3 -0.04/20 when White is certainly a lot better after the line he gives: *(19.Kh1±* 0.76/24 *)* 19...Rb8= 20.Rab1

A) it seems to me that Black has rather more compensation after 20...Qc5+ 21.Kh1 e3 22.Bb3 -0.61/19 *(22.Qxf5?* -1.55/19 22.Bd3 -0.04 *e2* is good for Black*; 22.Bd3*= -0.08/24 *)* 22...f4! , although in the long run I wouldn't be terribly optimistic;

B) 20...Qc5+= -0.04/26 21.Kh1 e3;

C) 20...Re8 1.19/20 21.Kh1 0.19/19 *(21.fxe4±* 1.19/20 *Qc5+ 22.Kh1 fxe4 23.Qe2)* 21...Re5? 1.91/20 *(21...e3!=* 0.19/19 *)* 22.fxe4+- fxe4 23.Qe2 and Black misses the b-pawn not just for itself but also because he can no longer break the b2/c3 couple with ...b4, and the a3-knight can always jump into play via c4.]

14.Bxb5 Bd7 TonyK: 'This is the normal move here, we looked at' TonyK: 'This is the normal move here, we looked at Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'This is the normal move here, we looked at'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'This is the normal move here, we looked at'"

[John Cox: 'Instead Emil Sutovsky recently introduced an interesting way to fight for the initiative:' 14...Rc8 in another game of Almasi, against Sutovsky - see the archives. TonyK: 'in another game of Almasi, against Sutovsky - see the archives. Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) in another game of Almasi, against Sutovsky - see the archives." John Cox: 'doesn't seem to have much point if Black is going to meet' John Cox: 'doesn't seem to have much point if Black is going to meet Rogozenco,Dorian: 'in another game of Almasi, against Sutovsky - see the archives. doesn't seem to have much point if Black is going to meet" 15.Qa4! with

A) 15...0-0 0.76/21 15...Bd7 -0.19 , just giving the knight back to win control of the centre and misplace White's pieces a bit. After 16.Bxc6 fxe4! in the stem game Almasi made the striking choice of 17.0-0-0 John Cox: 'I don't suppose this would be the move most of us would come up with, but the knight on b4 enables White to defend his king very well;' (I don't suppose this would be the move most of us

would come up with, but the knight on b4 enables White to defend his king very well; if instead *17.0-0* 0.28/20 17.0-0-0 0.64 Black can develop an initiative with moves like ...Kh8, ...Qg5 and ...f5 *)*

A1) either an immediate 17...f5;

A2) or, as Rogozenko proposed, 17...Bf5 1.55/19 17...Kh8 0.64 , when he gives the variation 18.Ne3 Bh6 19.Kb1 0.51/17 *(19.Bd5*+- 1.63/23 *)* 19...Bxe3!± 20.fxe3 Qb6 21.Bxe4 0.00/28 *(21.Rxd6±* 0.59/20 *Qxe3 22.Qb5)* 21...Rb8= 22.b3 -1.23/21 *(22.Rd2!=* 0.00/28 *Qxe3 23.Bxf5 Qxd2 24.Qc2 Qxc2*+ *25.Bxc2)* 22...Ra8!∓ 23.Qc4 Rfc8! 24.Qd3? -4.87/28 *(24.Qd5∓* -1.18/21 nothing else works. *Qa5* Deflection *25.Qxa5 Bxe4*+ *26.Kb2 Rxa5 27.Rxd6)* 24...Bxe4? 0.06/17 *(24...Qa5*-+ -4.87/28 *25.a4 Rxc3 26.Bxf5 Rb8 27.Bxh7*+ *Kg7 28.Qxc3* Remove Defender *Qxc3)* 25.Qxe4= Qa5 26.Rd2 Rxc3 which is fine for Black, was an alternative;

A3) , and things didn't go particularly well for Sutovsky: 17...Kh8 John Cox: ', and things didn't go particularly well for Sutovsky;' 18.Kb1 f5 19.Nb4 Qb6 1.24/22 *(⌓19...Bf7* 0.79/22 *)* 20.f3!±

A3a) 20...exf3 21.gxf3 Rfd8 2.14/20 was widely suggested as an improvement, perhaps aiming for ...Rc7-a7 *(21...Bf7±* 1.38/25 *)*;

A3b) 20...e3 21.Bd5! Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qb7 2.27/22 *(22...Qc5* 1.74/20 keeps fighting. *)* 23.Qb3 Qa6 24.Qb6 Qa4 3.00/24 *(⌓24...Qxb6* 1.98/20 *25.Nxb6* Discovered Attack *Rc6)* 25.b3 Qa3 26.Qxe3 , when White was definitely beginning to get on top in Z.Almasi-E.Sutovsky, Paks 2005.;

B) 15...Bd7! 16.exf5! 0-0 17.0-0 Kh8 *(17...e4!?)* 18.Qe4! Rg8 19.a4 Bh6 1.06/21 *(19...Qg5±* 0.59/23 *)* 20.g3!± Rb8 21.b4 Rg5 22.Ne3 , as he did in I.Cheparinov-S.Halkias, European Championship, Antalya 2004, since as Rogozenko points out the white queen has come to e4 in two moves just as it does in our main game, while Black has spent time on ...Rc8-b8. John Cox: ', as he did in I.Cheparinov-S. Halkias, European Championship, Antalya 2004, since as Rogozenko points out the white queen has come to e4 in two moves just as it does in our main game, while Black has spent time on ...Rc8-b8. , as he did in I. Cheparinov-S.Halkias, European Championship, Antalya 2004, since as Rogozenko points out the white queen has come to e4 in two moves just as it does in our main game, while Black has spent time on ...Rc8-b8.']

15.exf5 The position is equal. **15...0-0**

[John Cox: 'Rogozenko speaks kindly in his book of' 15...Nb8 John Cox: 'but he has changed his mind in 'Mega Database 2007'. Black doesn't have to be afraid of 16 Qg4 Kf8 (the king's rook is useful on g8), while ' is probably not sufficient in view of John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is

probably not sufficient in view of"

A) 16.Bd3 -0.53/21 16.a4 0.22 Na6

A1) 17.Qf3 Nc5 18.Nc7+? -2.71/19 *(18.0-0!∓* -0.36/20 *)* 18...Qxc7-+ 19.Qxa8+ Ke7 20.Qf3 Rb8 is also promising for Black;

A2) 17.0-0 Nc7 18.Be4! Nxd5 19.Qxd5 Ra6 20.a4 0-0! 21.a5 Bc6 22.Qc4 Qc8 favoured Black if anyone in C.Lupulescu-D. Rogozenko, Galati 2005.;

B) John Cox: 'in Rogozenko's present view' 16.a4! John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: "!" 16...Bxb5 17.axb5 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 0-0

B1) John Cox: 'or' Also strong is Winckelmann's suggestion John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Also strong is Winckelmann's suggestion" 19.0-0 Nd7 20.Qa7! John Cox: 'favours White' John Cox: 'favours White Rogozenco, Dorian: "!";

B2) But not 19.Qa4? -0.36/21 19.Qa3 0.13 Nd7 20.0-0 Nf6 21.Nxf6+ -1.23/21 *(21.Rd1=* -0.22/24 *)* 21...Bxf6∓ 22.Rd1 d5 Wards off Qe4 23.c4 d4∓ 0-1 Murariu,A (2475)-Rogozenko, D (2517)/Timisoara 2005 (43)

B3) 19.Qa3]

[In his next game against this system the Romanian preferred the experimental 15...Rb8 16.a4 White wants to play Qf3. Rg8 (one can see the sense in this: the rook will be active on this file, the king should be OK on f8, and f6 tricks are avoided; on the other hand the unconnected rooks make it harder to defend against the passed pawns if they do get on their way), but White obtained the advantage with 17.Qf3 Ne7 18.Ne3! Bf6 19.0-0 Rg5? 2.14/19 *(19...Kf8!=* 0.08/19 *)* 20.Rfd1! in G.Ardelean-D.Rogozenko, Timisoara 2006.]

16.0-0 John Cox: 'This is really the usual starting point of this system.'

[This is really the usual starting point of this system. 16.Qg4 instead can be met either by Nb8 *(*or by *16...Kh8 .)*]

16...Rb8 John Cox: 'This is the main line, but Black has tried a lot of other moves:'

[a) John Cox: 'a) but Black has tried a lot of other moves:' 16...e4 is a tempting move to try and release Black's pieces. White's best is 17.a4 to meet 17...Ne5? with 18 f6; Black continues with Re8 and now Rogozenko likes 18.Re1 as in G.Kuzmin-V.Malakhatko, Alushta 1999. It seems to me that Black would do best now to play Kh8 *(18...Re5* is also possible, although White can then go for the tactical resolution *19.Ne3! Ne7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.f6 Bxf6* Strongly threatening ...Re6. *22.Qg4+ Qxg4 23.Nxg4 Re6! 24.Nxf6+ Rxf6 25.Rxe4 Re6* with an approximately equal ending *)* 19.Qg4 Re5 20.Ne3! Qf6 .]

[b) 16...Kh8 is a generally useful move, although it might be best to wait for Qg4. In Z.Almasi-A.Shirov, German League 2004, White played 17.a4 f6 18.b4 Rb8 (preparing ... Ne7, which if played at once loses an exchange to 19 Bxd7 and Nb6) 19.Qd3 Re8 , and now but Almasi took advantage of the move order to try 20.Rfd1 0.34/21 , when after *(20.c4!±* 0.77/20 *)* 20...e4± 21.Qe2 Qc8 he elected to force a draw with

22.Ba6 0.57/20 *(22.a5±* 1.46/19 *)* 22...Qd8± Prevents Nb6. 23.Bb5 and so on, although Rogozenko makes a good case for playing on with 22 a5.]

[c) 16...Re8 can be met with **A)** but in S.Karjakin-L.McShane, Pamplona 2003, White chose instead almost to tempt ...e4 with 17.Qf3 -0.34/22 17.Qg4 0.19 e4 18.Qg3 -1.00/21 *(18.Qf4!∓* -0.37/24 *)* 18...Kh8∓ 19.Qxd6 -1.29/26 when Black can choose between *(⌓19.a4* -0.87/21 *)* 19...Be5 -0.53/23 *(*or various tactical complications, such as those after *19...Ne5! 20.Bxd7 Ra7!* Wards off Nc7*; 19...Ne5!∓* -1.29/26 *20.Bxd7 Ra7)* 20.Qh6∓ Bg7 21.Qd6 -1.21/23 repeating *(⌓21.Qh5* -0.85/23 *)*; **B)** 17.Qg4 Kh8 18.Qe4 , when Black can hardly do anything but transpose to Almasi-Wang Yue.]

17.a4 Re8

[17...Qg5!? 0.55/23 17...e4 0.06 TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" 18.Ne3 -0.08/21 *(18.Qf3±* 0.55/23 *Bh6 19.Qe4 Bxf5 20.Qf3)* 18...Rfd8!= 19.Qxd6 of Koch, J-Philippe, C/ Bischwiller FRA 2003, is not so clear, Black can try TonyK: 'of Koch, J-Philippe, C/ Bischwiller FRA 2003, is not so clear, Black can try Rogozenco: 'of Koch, J-Philippe, C/ Bischwiller FRA 2003, is not so clear, Black can try" Be8!? 20.Qa3 Ne7!]

18.Qg4 TonyK: 'White protects the f-pawn and threatens to win material by Bxc6 and f6.' TonyK: 'White protects the f-pawn and threatens to win material by Bxc6 and f6. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'White protects the f-pawn and threatens to win material by Bxc6 and f6.'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'White protects the f-pawn and threatens to win material by Bxc6 and f6.'"

[18.Qf3 -0.23/22 18.Qg4 0.32 e4! 19.Qg3 leads to similar complications as the Karjakin game above, but the text is designed to prevent ...e4.]

18...Kh8 Black is weak on the light squares **19.Qe4** TonyK: '!' '!' TonyK: 'The queen eyes the knight on c6.' TonyK: 'The queen eyes the knight on c6. Rogozenco: "!' Tony Kosten. Tony Kosten: 'The queen eyes the knight on c6.'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: '!' TonyK: 'The queen eyes the knight on c6.'"

[John Cox: 'Instead ' 19.Qh5 -0.36/27 19.Qe4 0.26 Berthelot, Y-Lautier, J/ France 2003. TonyK: 'Berthelot, Y-Lautier, J/France 2003. Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) Berthelot, Y-Lautier, J/ France 2003." John Cox: 'can be met either by' John Cox: 'can be met either by Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Berthelot, Y-Lautier, J/France 2003. can be met either by" Kg8 0.13/23 *(*or *19...Ne7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.Qxf7 Qxf5 22.Qxf5 Nxf5* with a fairly equal endgame*.; 19...e4∓* -0.36/27 was preferrable. *)*]

19...f6! TonyK: 'This is not really a move that Black likes to play in the Sveshnikov, but otherwise the threat of the f5-pawn advancing will always weigh on Black's mind. Alternatives:' John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'This is not really a move that Black likes to play in the Sveshnikov, but otherwise the threat of the f5-pawn advancing will always weigh on Black's mind. Alternatives:'"

[John Cox: 'Likewise' 19...Qg5?! 1.16/23 19...f6 0.31 TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" John Cox: 'can be strongly met by' John Cox: 'can be strongly met by Rogozenco, Dorian: '?!" 20.Nb4! *(20.f6* 0.69/22 20.h4 1.19 , *)* 20...d5!? 1.24/22 *(⌓20...Nxb4* 0.87/21 *21.Bxd7 d5)* 21.Qxd5± Nxb4 22.Qxd7 Red8 23.Qxf7 Nd5 24.Rad1! Nf4 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 and now, rather than 26.Qb7 0.12/24 tying the queen to g2, Grigoriants, S-Shomoev, A/St Petersburg 2004, TonyK: 'tying the queen to g2, Grigoriants, S-Shomoev, A/St Petersburg 2004, Rogozenco: 'tying the queen to g2, Grigoriants, S-Shomoev, A/St Petersburg 2004," *(26.g3!* looks good, White has a lot of pawns for the piece. TonyK: 'looks good, White has a lot of pawns for the piece. Rogozenco: 'looks good, White has a lot of pawns for the piece. "*; 26.g3!±* 1.21/24 *)*]

[John Cox: 'as indeed could' 19...Rg8!? TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" John Cox: 'be, although in I. Cheparinov-H.Saldano, Elgoibar 2004, White (a great exponent of this system) preferred the systematic' John Cox: 'be, although in I. Cheparinov-H.Saldano, Elgoibar 2004, White (a great exponent of this system) preferred the systematic Rogozenco,Dorian: '!?" 20.Rfd1 Bf8 21.b4 Rc8 2.78/21 *(⌓21...Ne7* 1.67/20 *)* 22.a5+- Qg5 23.Ne3 and White won by advancing his passed queenside pawns in Cheparinov, I-Saldano Dayer, H/Elgoibar 2004. TonyK: 'and White won by advancing his passed queenside pawns in Cheparinov, I-Saldano Dayer, H/Elgoibar 2004. Rogozenco: 'and White won by advancing his passed queenside pawns in Cheparinov, I-Saldano Dayer, H/Elgoibar 2004." John Cox: ', which gave him the advantage too, and illustrated an ideal piece set-up for White in this variation.' John Cox: ', which gave him the advantage too, and illustrated an ideal piece set-up for White in this variation. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'and White won by advancing his passed queenside pawns in Cheparinov, I-Saldano Dayer, H/Elgoibar 2004. , which gave him the advantage too, and illustrated an ideal piece set-up for White in this variation."]

[This doesn't look like something Black wants to play, but it does at least rule out f6 tactics (for example, 19...Ne7?? 20.f6)]

20.b4 TonyK: 'This move looks right, as soon as the queenside pawns start marching up the board they increase in value.' TonyK: 'This move looks right, as soon as the queenside pawns start marching up the board they increase in value. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'This move looks right, as soon as the queenside pawns start marching up the board they increase in value.'" John Cox: 'would lead back to our main game, ' John Cox: 'would lead back to our main game, Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'This move looks right, as soon as the queenside pawns start marching up the board they increase in value.'"

[20.Rfd1 is the other option, hoping to put pressure on d6, Ne7! 21.Bxd7 *(21.Nxe7 Qxe7 22.c4* has also been played with success by Delorme recently. *)* 21...Qxd7 22.Nxe7 Qxe7]

20...Ne7!

[20...Qc8 0.97/19 20...Ne7 0.15 to tempt g4 is possible; rather than weaken himself like this White can play 21.Qc4 Qb7 Inhibits a5. 22.Rfd1 with a complicated and unclear game.]

21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Nxe7 Qxe7N

TonyK: 'A novelty,' TonyK: 'A novelty, Rogozenco: 'N' Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'A novelty,'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'N' Rogozenco, Dorian: 'TonyK: 'A novelty,'" The theory of this theoretical line is very new. In the only existing game Black equalized easily, but White's play could be improved. Therefore the Chinese GM makes an attempt to change something earlier, but Almasi shows the drawback of Black's idea. TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'The theory of this theoretical line is very new. In the only existing game Black equalized easily, but White's play could be improved. Therefore the Chinese GM makes an attempt to change something earlier, but Almasi shows the drawback of Black's idea." John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: 'The theory of this theoretical line is very new. In the only existing game Black equalized easily, but White's play could be improved. Therefore the Chinese GM makes an attempt to change something earlier, but Almasi shows the drawback of Black's idea."

[22...Rxe7 TonyK: 'keeps the pressure on f5, and threatens ...d5:' TonyK: 'keeps the pressure on f5, and threatens ...d5: Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'keeps the pressure on f5, and threatens ...d5:'" John Cox: 'had been played before this game. After' John Cox: 'had been played before this game. After Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'keeps the pressure on f5, and threatens ...d5:' had been played before this game. After" 23.Rfd1 Qc7 John Cox: ',' *(*Serious attention deserves *23...Qc8; 23...Bf8 24.a5 Qc8 25.Qd5 Ra7 26.Rd3 Qd7 27.Rg3 Bh6 28.Rd1 Rd8 29.Rf3* Chapter-Games Chapter - 25 *)*

A) John Cox: 'but' Correct is John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Correct is" 24.Ra3! John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: '!" Bf8 25.a5 John Cox: 'is good for White according to Rogozenko: he says that 23...Qc8 is a better try' with advantage for White. John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: 'with advantage for White.";

B) John Cox: ' I'm not all that convinced White has anything concrete after Kosten's proposal of' 24.Qd5! 0.00/28 24.Ra3 0.53 stops the coming trick, TonyK: 'stops the coming trick, Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) stops the coming trick," John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'stops the coming trick," Qxc3 25.Qxd6 (by attacking f6 the queen stops ... Bf8) John Cox: ', and now' John Cox: ', and now Rogozenco,Dorian: '(by attacking f6 the queen stops ... Bf8) , and now"

B1) 25...Reb7 26.b5 Qa5 0.80/22 , although it's not clear either what Black can undertake; *(26...Rb6!=* 0.29/21 *27.Qd7 h6)*;

B2) 25...Rbe8= 0.00/28;

B3) 25...Rc7 0.50/24 26.b5 and this position looks good for White as the black bishop is too far away to help stop the

connected passers TonyK: 'and this position looks good for White as the black bishop is too far away to help stop the connected passers Rogozenco: 'and this position looks good for White as the black bishop is too far away to help stop the connected passers";

C) 24.Rd3 John Cox: 'allows' John Cox: 'allows' 24...d5! John Cox: 'when' John Cox: 'when Rogozenco,Dorian: '!"

C1) 25.Qxd5 -0.67/22 25.Rxd5 0.00 e4 26.Re3 -2.17/21 *(26.Rdd1∓ -0.72/22)* 26...Rd8? -0.40/25 TonyK: 'allows Black to become very active' TonyK: 'allows Black to become very active Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'allows Black to become very active'" John Cox: 'gives Black enough activity to equalize at least.' John Cox: 'gives Black enough activity to equalize at least. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'allows Black to become very active' gives Black enough activity to equalize at least." *(26...Re5!-+ -2.17/21 27.Qb3 Bh6)* 27.Qb3? -2.74/20 *(27.Qc5∓ -0.40/25)* 27...Bh6∞;

C2) John Cox: 'or' 25.Rxd5 Qxc3 26.Rad1 Ree8 0.61/20 *(*Better is *26...Bf8*= 0.00/23 *27.b5 Rc7)* 27.b5± Bf8 TonyK: 'now the bishop enters into the fray' TonyK: 'now the bishop enters into the fray Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'now the bishop enters into the fray'" 28.Qh4 0.00/28 *(28.g3± 0.68/14)* 28...Be7 29.g3 ½-½ Parligras,M (2564)-Nguyen,N (2466)/ Budapest 2004 TonyK: '1/2-1/2 Parligras, M-Nguyen, N/ Budapest 2004, but I think Black could continue by' TonyK: '1/2-1/2 Parligras, M-Nguyen, N/ Budapest 2004, but I think Black could continue by Rogozenco: '½-½ Parligras,M (2564)-Nguyen, N (2466)/Budapest 2004 Tony Kosten: '1/2-1/2 Parligras, M-Nguyen, N/Budapest 2004, but I think Black could continue by'" Qf3 TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten". Prevents Qh5]

23.a5 TonyK: 'White's plan is very simple in this position: push the passed pawns!' TonyK: 'White's plan is very simple in this position: push the passed pawns! Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'White's plan is very simple in this position: push the passed pawns!'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'White's plan is very simple in this position: push the passed pawns!'"

[Stronger than TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Stronger than" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Stronger than" 23.Rfd1

A) 23...Rec8 TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" John Cox: 'was Y. Berthelot-A.Flament, Rohde 2006, when in contrast to our main game White felt he had to defend c3 with' 24.Rd3 John Cox: ', although'

A1) 24...Qb7?! 0.79/24 24...d5 0.10 25.Qxb7 Rxb7 Lupulescu, C-Milanovic, D/ Subotica SCG 2005, 26.Rxd6 Kg8 1.31/24 *(26...Rbc7± 0.42/24)* 27.Rd3 0.68/23 *(27.a5!± 1.31/24)* 27...e4± 28.Rh3 should be

winning for White.;
A2) 24...Qf7!? John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!?" 25.a5 John Cox: 'still kept it unclear.' Bf8 26.a6 is Berthelot, Y-Flament, A/ Sautron 2005, when TonyK: 'is Berthelot, Y-Flament, A/ Sautron 2005, when Rogozenco: 'is Berthelot, Y-Flament, A/ Sautron 2005, when" Rb5! 27.a7 -0.59/18 *(*White should try *27.Rdd1*= 0.00/24 *d5 28.Qd3)* 27...d5 is critical.;
B) 23...Qc7 24.Ra3 Bf8! when 25.a5 -1.13/23 runs into *(25.Rd5*= 0.05/27 remains equal. *)* 25...d5!∓ (in opposite to the game Parligras-Nguyen - see there 24.♖a3! - here the rook on e8 instead of e7 makes the difference in Black's favour) 26.Qxd5 *(26.Rxd5?* -3.40/23 26.Qxd5 -1.08 *Bxb4-+)* 26...Rbd8 27.Qf3 -2.53/19 *(27.Qb3 Qxc3!; 27.Qb3∓* -1.06/24 *Qxc3 28.Rb1 Qxb4 29.Qxb4 Bxb4 30.Ra2)* 27...e4!-+ 28.Qe2 e3!⇄]
[23.Qd5 -0.27/22 23.a5 0.40 Rec8 0.66/19 *(23...e4*= -0.27/22 *)* 24.Ra3 -0.04/21 *(24.a5!±* 0.66/19 *)* 24...Qd7 is also okay for Black.]
23...Rec8 0.76/20
[23...d5= 0.23/20 24.Qxd5 e4]
24.Rfb1! 0.22/23 TonyK: '!?' '!?' TonyK: 'Offering the c-pawn to further advance its two brothers.' TonyK: 'Offering the c-pawn to further advance its two brothers. Rogozenco: '!' Rogozenco: "!?' Tony Kosten. Tony Kosten: 'Offering the c-pawn to further advance its two brothers. '" John Cox: 'This is the advantage of not committing to Rfd1 earlier.
' John Cox: 'This is the advantage of not committing to Rfd1 earlier. Rogozenco,Dorian: '!' Rogozenco, Dorian: 'TonyK: '!?' TonyK: 'Offering the c-pawn to further advance its two brothers.' This is the advantage of not committing to Rfd1 earlier." A new and powerful concept for these positions: White sacrifices the c-pawn and shows that if Black is not well coordinated he has big difficulties to stop White's pawns. TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'A new and powerful concept for these positions: White sacrifices the c-pawn and shows that if Black is not well coordinated he has big difficulties to stop White's pawns. " John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'A new and powerful concept for these positions: White sacrifices the c-pawn and shows that if Black is not well coordinated he has big difficulties to stop White's pawns."
[24.a6± 0.76/20]
24...Qd7 0.95/24 TonyK: 'Black controls b5.' TonyK: 'Black controls b5. Rogozenco: '?" John Cox: 'Trying to enforce ...d5.' John Cox: 'Trying to enforce ...d5. Rogozenco,Dorian: '?' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'Black controls b5.'". Wards off b5
[John Cox: 'Trying to enforce ...d5. After ' 24...Rxc3? 3.74/26 24...Qf7 0. 34 looks very risky, even if things are far from clear: TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'looks very risky, even if things are far from clear:" John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: 'looks very risky, even if things are far from clear:" 25.b5 John Cox: 'White wins, I think, although a bit of patience is needed:'
A) 25...Rc7? 5.65/22 25...d5 2.63 26.b6 Rcb7 27.a6 Rxb6 28.Rxb6 Rxb6 29.a7+-;
B) 25...d5 26.Qxd5 Rc5? 5.22/22

(26...Bf8 2.42/22 *27.a6 Ra3)* 27.Qe6+- Qxe6 *(27...Qd8 28.b6+-)* 28.fxe6 Rcxb5 29.Rxb5 Rxb5 30.a6 Rb8 31.a7 Ra8 32.e7 White wants to mate with Rb1. Kg8 33.Rb1+-;

C) 25...Qd7?! 5.65/23 25...Qa7 2. 57 TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten" John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: '?!" 26.a6 d5 27.Qe1! John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!" Rc4 28.b6 is the point, and if two such pawns are worth a rook then Black is losing! TonyK: 'is the point, and if two such pawns are worth a rook then Black is losing! Rogozenco: 'is the point, and if two such pawns are worth a rook then Black is losing!" John Cox: '– Kosten – wins as well' John Cox: '– Kosten – wins as well - Kosten - wins as well' John Cox: '– Kosten – wins as well - Kosten - wins as well Rogozenco,Dorian: 'is the point, and if two such pawns are worth a rook then Black is losing! – Kosten á wins as well" John Cox: '– Kosten – wins as well';

D) 25...Qa7

D1) Better is John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Better is" 26.Qd5 2.12/20 26.a6 3.77 and only White can play for a win. John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'and only White can play for a win." Bf8? 3.63/24 *(26...Rc5* 2.12/20 *27.b6 Qa6 28.Qxd6 Rcc8)* 27.b6+- Qa6 28.Qe6 Bg7 29.Qxd6 .;

D2) better than 26.b6 Qa6;

D3) 26.Qe2

D3a) 26...Qd4? 5.00/20 26...Qa8 2.38 27.b6 Rc6 28.Qe3 Prevents Bh6. Qxe3 29.fxe3 Bh6 30.Rb3 d5

D3a1) 31.a6?? -3.02/16 31.Kf1 3.79 Rcxb6 32.Rxb6? -5.95/22 *(32.Rba3* -3.15/20 *)* 32...Bxe3+-+;

D3a2) 31.Kf1 d4 32.a6+-;

D3b) 26...Qa8 27.b6 Rc6 28.Qb5 1.16/21 *(28.Qe3+-* 2.60/24 and White stays clearly on top. *)* 28...Rc5!± *(28...Bf8?* 5.61/25 28...Rc5 1. 32 *29.Rc1+-; 28...Bh6 29.a6 Rcxb6 30.Qxb6 Rxb6 31.Rxb6 Qa7 32.Rb7 Qd4 33.Rab1+-)* 29.Qa4 Qa6 and Black blockades the pawns.]

[John Cox: 'As Rogozenko says, though, it made more sense to play' The critical move is John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'The critical move is" 24...Qf7! John Cox: ', covering c4 as well as d5. The drawback is that b5 is not prevented, but Rogozenko's line ' John Cox: ', covering c4 as well as d5. The drawback is that b5 is not prevented, but Rogozenko's line Rogozenco,Dorian: '!" preparing the advance ...d5 and at the same time preventing 25.c4. Black's main idea is to bring the bishop to c5: John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'preparing the advance ...d5 and at the same time preventing 25.c4. Black's main idea is to bring the bishop to c5:" 25.b5 *(25.Rd1? Rxc3)* 25...d5 26.Qd3 *(26.Qa4!? Bf8□ 27.b6±)* 26...Bf8 27.b6 Bc5 28.Rb5 d4 29.c4 e4! John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!" 30.Qxe4 *(30.Qb3?* -2.61/24 30.Qxe4 0.00 *e3∞)* 30...Qxc4

31.Rbb1 Bb4∞ 2.52/24 John Cox: 'keeps it unclear.' John Cox: 'keeps it unclear. Rogozenco,Dorian: '∞" This position is very likely to end in some sort of draw. John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'This position is very likely to end in some sort of draw. " *(31...Re8*= 0.00/19 *32.Qc6 d3 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qg5+ Kh8)*]
[Black should play 24...Bf8± 0.44/19]
[24...Qf7= 0.22/23 keeps the balance.]

25.c4± John Cox: 'White is now a lot better – the bishop can't enter the game without Black giving away another pawn. ' John Cox: 'White is now a lot better – the bishop can't enter the game without Black giving away another pawn. White is now a lot better - the bishop can't enter the game without Black giving away another pawn.' John Cox: 'White is now a lot better – the bishop can't enter the game without Black giving away another pawn.' **25...d5□** TonyK: '!' '!' TonyK: 'This looks desperate, but what else? If Black does nothing the pawns will queen.' TonyK: 'This looks desperate, but what else? If Black does nothing the pawns will queen. Rogozenco: '□" John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: '□' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: '!' TonyK: 'This looks desperate, but what else? If Black does nothing the pawns will queen.'"

[25...Bf8 1.89/25 25...d5 1.04 26.Qd5! b5 is the strong threat. *(26.b5* 0.46/18 26.Qd5 1.63 *d5!)* 26...Qxf5? 3.93/21 *(26...e4* 1.75/19 was called for. *27.b5 e3)* 27.b5+- Rc5 *(27...Qd7* 5.34/23 27...Qc2 3.76 *28.a6+-)* 28.Qf7 Rbc8 *(28...Qc8 29.a6+-)* 29.b6 Rxc4 (-> ...Qxb1+!) 30.Rf1! *(30.b7??* -#3/17 30.Rf1 4.01 *Qxb1+ 31.Rxb1 Rc1+ 32.Rxc1 Rxc1#)* 30...Rg4 31.g3! *(31.b7?* 0.00/46 31.g3 3.91 *Rxg2+!=)* 31...Rg7 32.Qd5+-]

26.cxd5 0.34/22

[Black has good chances to escape after John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'Black has good chances to escape after" 26.Qxd5 John Cox: 'was far superior according to the machine. To be honest I'm not sure. It's natural to keep the queen on with the chance to take advantage of the exposed king once the bishop comes to the queenside, as in the game.' Qxd5? 3.37/17 *(26...Qxf5±* 1.27/22 might work better. *27.a6 Ra8)* 27.cxd5+- Bf8 28.b5 Rc2 29.b6 Threatens to win with a6. Bc5 For instance: 30.b7? 0.00/30 *(30.Rc1+-* 2.86/22 *Bxf2+ 31.Kf1 Rxc1+ 32.Rxc1 Bxb6 33.axb6 Rxb6 34.Rc8+ Kg7 35.Rd8)* 30...Bxf2+? 1.91/20 *(30...Rxf2*= 0.00/30 and Black is okay. *31.a6 Ba7)* 31.Kh1+- Ba7 32.a6 Rd2 33.Rc1 Rxd5 2.73/20 *(⌓33...Kg7* 1.81/25 *)* 34.Rc8++- Kg7 35.h3? 0.00/28 *(35.g4!+-* 2.45/23 *Rd8 36.Rac1)* 35...Rb5? 3.80/22 *(35...Kh6*= 0.00/28 and Black stays safe. *)* 36.Rxb8? 0.00/33 *(36.h4+-* 3.80/22 *)* 36...Bxb8= 37.a7 Bxa7! 38.Rxa7 Kh6!= 39.Ra6 *(39.h4!? Kh5□ 40.Ra4=)* 39...Kg5!]
[26.Qxd5± 1.21/23 Qxf5 27.a6]

26...Bf8± TonyK: 'The bishop's presence is required, as the rooks cannot cope on their own:' TonyK: 'The bishop's presence is required, as the rooks cannot cope on their own: Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'The bishop's presence is required, as the rooks cannot cope on their own:'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,

Dorian: 'TonyK: 'The bishop's presence is required, as the rooks cannot cope on their own:'"

[John Cox: 'After' 26...Rb5 1.88/21 26...Bf8 0.38 blockades one pawn, but then TonyK: 'blockades one pawn, but then Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) blockades one pawn, but then" John Cox: 'Tony Kosten on ChessPublishing.com gave the variation' John Cox: 'Tony Kosten on ChessPublishing.com gave the variation Rogozenco,Dorian: 'blockades one pawn, but then Tony Kosten on ChessPublishing.com gave the variation" 27.a6 Ra8 2.23/21 *(27...Rxd5?* 4.05/21 27...Qd6 1.50 *28.b5; ⌓27...Qd6* 1.84/26 *28.Qd3 Rxd5)* 28.d6!+- John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!" Ra7 29.Qc4 Bf8 30.Rd1 And now Qe6 would win. Rb6 31.b5 Bxd6 *(31...Rxb5* 2.95/26 31...Bxd6 2.03 *32.Qe6* aiming for Qxd7. *Qd8 33.d7!)* 32.Rd3 and the black blockade is creaking. John Cox: ', when again Black is having great trouble holding on.' John Cox: ', when again Black is having great trouble holding on. Rogozenco, Dorian: 'and the black blockade is creaking. , when again Black is having great trouble holding on."]

27.h3± TonyK: 'Rogozenco: '±" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '±" With four pawns for the piece and no active counterplay for Black, the evaluation is clear: Black has a tough fight for the draw. TonyK: 'Rogozenco: 'With four pawns for the piece and no active counterplay for Black, the evaluation is clear: Black has a tough fight for the draw." John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'With four pawns for the piece and no active counterplay for Black, the evaluation is clear: Black has a tough fight for the draw." **27...Rb5** 0.85/19

[27...Rc7= 0.29/21]

28.a6 Qd6 1.78/19

[28...Ra8! 1.59/23 28...Bd6 0.63 is a slight improvement. TonyK: 'is a slight improvement. Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) is a slight improvement. "]

[28...Qa7± 0.62/24]

29.a7+- Ra8 30.Qc4 Rb6

[30...Rxb4? 10.83/27 30...Rb7 1.49 loses at once to 31.Rxb4 Qxb4 32.Qc6 .]

31.Rc1!

[31.b5 Qc5 32.Qd3 Qc7]

31...Qd7 2.14/11

[John Cox: 'The a-pawn queens after' 31...Rxb4? 6.26/12 31...Rb7 1.44 loses to TonyK: 'loses to Rogozenco: '(Tony Kosten) loses to" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '?' Rogozenco, Dorian: 'loses to" 32.Qc8! Qxd5 33.Rc6 John Cox: '!' '!' '!' '!' John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: "!"' Rxc8 34.Rxc8 and the a-pawn queens. TonyK: 'and the a-pawn queens. Rogozenco: 'and the a-pawn queens." John Cox: '. Rogozenco,Dorian: 'and the a-pawn queens."]

[31...e4± 1.38/16 32.Qxe4 Qxb4]

(Diagram)

32.Ra6!? 0.74/15 TonyK: '!' '!' TonyK: 'Rogozenco: '!?' Rogozenco: "!' Tony Kosten. " John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '!?' Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: '!"'

[Another possibility to play for a win was to exchange queens: 32.Qc7!

A) 32...Rb7

33.d6! Bxd6 34.Qxd7 Rxd7 35.Rd1 Raxa7? 4.92/10 *(35...Kg7* 2.41/10 *36.b5 Rdxa7 37.Rxa7+ Rxa7)* 36.Rxa7+- Rxa7 37.Rxd6+-;

B) 32...Qxc7 33.Rxc7 Rxb4 *(33...Bxb4 34.Rac1* Black must now prevent Rc8+. *Bf8 35.R1c6±)* 34.Ra6 Repels Rb6. Hoping for d6! Rd4 35.Rxf6 Rxd5 36.g4± 2.35/9 *(⌓36.Rb7* 4.73/12 *)*]

[32.Qc7!+- 2.14/11 is more deadly. Qxc7 33.Rxc7]

32...Rxb4±

[32...Rxa6 1.10/9 32...Rxb4 0.72 33.Qxa6 TonyK: 'hits f6.' TonyK: 'hits f6. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'hits f6.'" Qxa7 34.Qxf6+ Qg7 35.Qe6 d6 would now be deadly. Bxb4? 3.22/10 *(35...e4±* 1.15/9 is a better defense. *)* 36.Rc4±]

33.Qc6 Chess con chili. **33...Rxa7 34.Rxa7 Qxa7 35.Qxf6+ Qg7 36.Qe6** TonyK: 'White has lost all his queenside pawns (!) , but has now gained a three pawn advantage on the other side of the board.' TonyK: 'White has lost all his queenside pawns (!) , but has now gained a three pawn advantage on the other side of the board. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'White has lost all his queenside pawns (!) , but has now gained a three pawn advantage on the other side of the board.'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'White has lost all his queenside pawns (!) , but has now gained a three pawn advantage on the other side of the board.'" **36...Rb8** 1.38/18

[36...Qh6!± 0.40/13 37.Qxe5+ Kg8]

37.Rc4 0.13/19 TonyK: 'Plus an attack, as Rg4 is the menace.' TonyK: 'Plus an attack, as Rg4 is the menace. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'Plus an attack, as Rg4 is the menace.'" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: 'TonyK: 'Plus an attack, as Rg4 is the menace.'"

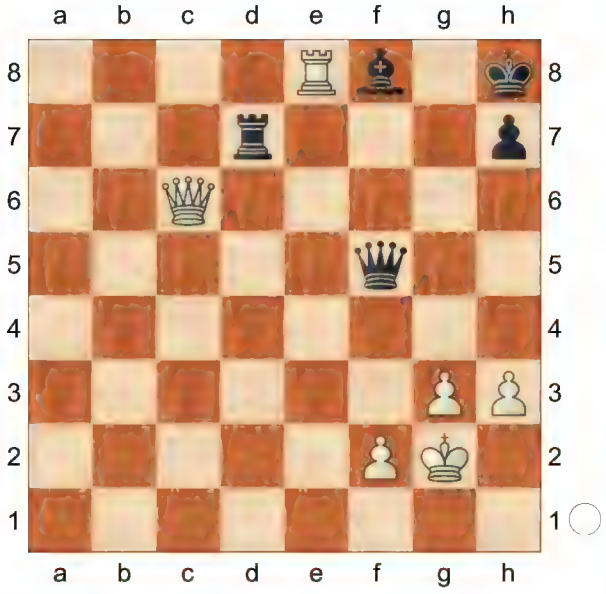
[37.d6± 1.38/18]

37...e4!= Deflection **38.Rxe4 Qc7 39.g3 Rb6! 40.Qe8 Rb8**

[⌓40...Rf6 John Cox: 'held on better, but I think White must win in the end.' John Cox: 'held on better, but I think White must win in the end. Rogozenco, Dorian: '⌓" 41.g4 Kg7! 42.Kg2±]

41.Qc6 Qd8 0.77/13

[41...Qd6!± 0.35/12]
42.Kg2→ White attacks with force. White is more active. **42...Qa5?** 6.83/10 This move loses the game for Black.
[42...Qd6± 0.76/12]
43.d6!+- TonyK: 'Rogozenco: '+-!" John Cox: 'Rogozenco,Dorian: '+-!". White is clearly winning. **43...Qxf5** 7.12/10
[⌓43...Qa8 4.33/9 44.Qxa8 Rxa8]
44.d7 TonyK: 'Finally everything is clear, and the d-pawn decides.' TonyK: 'Finally everything is clear, and the d-pawn decides. Rogozenco: 'Tony Kosten: 'Finally everything is clear, and the d-pawn decides."' John Cox: 'Rogozenco, Dorian: 'TonyK: 'Finally everything is clear, and the d-pawn decides."'
44...Rd8 45.Re8 Rxd7



46.Rxf8+! Deflection **46...Qxf8 47.Qxd7 Qa8+ 48.Kh2** John Cox: 'Points to Remember:
1. It would be worth looking into Sutovsky's idea to return the piece, and perhaps into 16...e4, which looks to me the most promising alternative to the set-up in the text game.
2. Otherwise it makes sense to put the rooks on b8 and e8, play ...Kh8 and ...f6 to avoid tricks, and then ...Ne7 to trade the strong knight. In the resulting positions Black has to be willing to play ...d5, even as a sacrifice, because the dark-squared bishop must get into the game. Points to Remember: 1. It would be worth looking into Sutovsky's idea to return the piece, and perhaps into 16... e4, which looks to me the most promising alternative to the set-up in the text game. 2. Otherwise it makes sense to put the rooks on b8 and e8, play ... Kh8 and ...f6 to avoid tricks, and then ... Ne7 to trade the strong knight. In the resulting positions Black has to be willing to play ...d5, even as a sacrifice, because the dark-squared bishop must get into the game.' John Cox: 'Points to Remember:
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get into the game. Points to Remember: 1. It would be worth looking into Sutovsky's idea to return the piece, and perhaps into 16...e4, which looks to me the most promising alternative to the set-up in the text game. --- 2. Otherwise it makes sense to put the rooks on b8 and e8, play ...Kh8 and ...f6 to avoid tricks, and then ...Ne7 to trade the strong knight. In the resulting positions Black has to be willing to play ...d5, even as a sacrifice, because the dark-squared bishop must get into the game.'.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.41.
Loses game: ---
Black=1
Mistake: White=4
Black=8
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=16
Black=4
Best: White=5
Black=3
Strong: White=1
Black=4
1-0

B33

□ **Kukk,Raul** **2609**
■ **Karacsony,Zsolt** **2590**
corr ICCF Olympiad 17th final 10.09.09
[Myers,MH]

1.e4 Myers **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5**
[10...Bg7!? 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.c4 f5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qf3 Re8 16.Rfe1 b4 17.Nc2 f4 18.Nxb4 Rb8 19.Nd5 Qg5 20.Bf1 f5 21.b4 fxe4 22.Rxe4 Rf8 23.b5 Bg4 24.Qd3 Bf5 25.bxa6 Qd8 26.Qf3 Bxe4 27.Qxe4 Rf7 28.Rc1 Rb2 29.c5 dxc5 30.Rxc5 Rd2 31.Rb5 Bf8 32.h3 Bd6 33.Nf6+ Qxf6 34.Bc4 Rd4 35.Bxf7+ Qxf7 36.Qc6 f3 37.a7 Rd1+ 38.Kh2 Qxa7 39.Qc8+ Bf8 40.Rb7 Qa6 41.Rg7+ Kxg7 42.Qxa6 fxg2 43.Kxg2 Rd6 44.Qb5 Rg6+ 45.Kf1 Bd6 46.a4 1-0 Krivic,D-Nielsen,J/corr ICCF 2009/]
11.Bd3 Be6 12.c3
[12.Qh5 Bg7 13.0-0 f4 *(13...h6 14.Rad1 0-0 15.c3 Rc8 16.Nc2 fxe4 17.Bxe4 f5 18.Qg6 Bd7 19.Bd3 e4 20.Be2 Be8 21.Qg3 Kh7 22.f4 exf3 23.Qxf3 Ne5 24.Qh3 Bd7 25.Nf4 Ng4 26.Rxd6 Qc7 27.Qd3 Qc5+ 28.Kh1 Ne5 29.Qd5 Qxd5 30.Nxd5 Rc6 31.Rxc6 Bxc6 32.Nce3 Rd8 33.Rd1 Nc4 34.Ne7 Rxd1+ 35.Nxd1 Be4 36.b3* 1-0 Stein,L-Sveshnikov,E/ Moscow URS 1973/ *)* 14.c3 *(14.c4 0-0 15.Rac1 b4 16.Nc2 Rb8 17.b3 Kh8 18.Rfd1 Rg8 19.Be2 Bf8 20.Kf1 Rg6 21.h3 Rh6 22.Qf3 Qg5 23.Qd3 Be7 24.Bf3 a5 25.Nc7 Rg8 26.Ra1 Bd8 27.Nxe6 Rxe6 28.Qd5 Ne7 29.Qb7 Qg7 30.Ne1 Ng6 31.Bg4 Rf6 32.Rd3 Nh4 33.Rad1 h5 34.Bf3 Nxf3 35.Rxf3 Rg6 36.Ke2 Qf8 37.Rfd3 Re6 38.c5 Rgg6 39.Qb8 Be7 40.Qxf8+ Bxf8 41.c6 Re8 42.Rd5 Rc8 43.Rc1* 1-0 Jobava, B-Klokas,K/Dresden GER 2007/ *)*
14...0-0 15.Nc2 f5 16.Ncb4 *(16.a4 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.axb5 e4 19.Bc4 axb5 20.Bxb5 Rb8 21.c4 Nxd5 22.Ra7 Nc7 23.Rfa1 Nxb5 24.cxb5 Qf6 25.Rc7 Rbc8 26.Raa7 Rxc7 27.Rxc7 Qxb2 28.Qe2 d5 29.h4 Kh8 30.Qh5 f3 31.Ne3 Qa1+*

32.Nf1 fxg2 33.Kxg2 f4 34.Qg4 f3+ 35.Kg1 Rg8 36.Rc8 Bf8 0-1 Lukin,A-Timoscenko,G/Soviet Union URS 1973/ *)* 16...Nxb4 17.Nxb4 a5 18.exf5 Bf7 19.Qh3 Qf6 *(19...Qd7 20.Nc2 d5 21.Rad1 Ra6 22.Qg4 Rh6 23.Qe2 f3 24.gxf3 Qe7 25.f4 e4 26.Bxb5 Bh5 27.f3 Qc5+ 28.Ne3 exf3 29.Qd3 f2+ 30.Kxf2 Bxd1 31.Rxd1 Kh8 32.Kg2 Rg8 33.Nf1 Bxc3+ 34.Ng3 Bxb2 35.Qxd5 Rxh2+ 36.Kxh2 Qf2+ 37.Qg2 Qxf4 38.Qxb2+* 1-0 Klovans,J-Timoscenko, G/Soviet Union URS 1974/ *)* 20.Nc2 Rab8 21.g3 Bh6 22.a4 b4 23.cxb4 d5 24.Bb5 Rfc8 25.Ne1 e4 26.bxa5 f3 27.a6 Bg7 28.Rb1 h5 29.b4 Rc7 30.Kh1 Qg5 31.Bd3 exd3 32.b5 d2 33.Nxf3 Qh6 34.Qh4 Qb6 35.Nxd2 Rc2 36.Rbd1 Re8 37.f6 Bxf6 38.a5 Bxh4 39.axb6 Bd8 40.b7 Bb6 41.Rc1 Bg6 42.Rce1 1-0 Anand,V-McShane,L/Bundesliga GER 2003/]

12...Bg7 13.Nxb5

[13.Qh5 0-0 14.exf5 *(14.0-0 fxe4 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Nf4 exf4 17.Bxc6 Rc8 18.Qe2 Be5 19.Qf3 b4 20.cxb4 Bxb2 21.Bd5 Qf6 22.Rad1 Rc3 23.Rd3 Bxd5 24.Qxd5+ Qf7 25.Qf3 Rfc8 26.Nb1 Rc1 27.Nd2 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1 Be5 29.Ra3 Qc4 30.Qh5 Qf7 31.Qf3 Qc4 32.Qb7 Rc7 33.Qa8+ Rc8 34.Qxa6 Qxa6 35.Rxa6 Rc2 36.Ra3 Rb2 37.Rb3 Rxa2 38.g3 fxg3 39.hxg3 Bd4 40.Ne3 Kf7 41.b5 Bb6 42.Kf1 Ke6 43.Nc4 Bxf2 44.b6 d5 45.b7 Ba7 46.Rb6+ Kd7 47.Rd6+ Kc7* ½-½ Kramnik,V-Van Wely,L/Wijk aan Zee NED 2005/ *)* 14...Bxd5 15.f6 h6 16.fxg7 Kxg7 17.Nc2 Be6 18.Ne3 d5 19.h4 Qf6 20.Bf5 Bxf5 21.Nxf5+ Kh7 22.Rd1 Rad8 23.Rh3 Qg6 24.Qxg6+ fxg6 25.Ne3 d4 26.Nc2 Rf4 27.Rd2 h5 28.b3 Rd5 29.Kd1 Kg7 30.Ke1 a5 31.Kd1 Kf6 32.Ke1 Rc5 33.cxd4 exd4 34.Kd1 Rd5 35.Ne1 Ne5 36.Ke2 Re4+ 37.Kd1 Rf4 38.Ke2 Re4+ 39.Kd1 a4 40.Nd3 axb3 41.axb3 Nxd3 42.Rdxd3 Ke5 43.Rdg3 Rg4 44.Kd2 Rc5 45.f3 Rxg3 46.Rxg3 Kf6 47.Kd3 Rc3+ 48.Kxd4 Rxb3 49.Rg5 Rb4+ ½-½ Anand,V-Ivanchuk,V/ Linares ESP 2002/]

13...axb5 14.Bxb5 Bd7 15.exf5 0-0 16.0-0 Re8

[16...e4 17.a4 *(17.Re1 Re8 18.a4 Rc8 19.a5 Bxf5 20.Qa4 Ne5 21.Bxe8 Qg5 22.Re3 Nf3+ 23.Rxf3 exf3 24.Ne3 d5 25.h4 Qg6 26.Bd7 Rc4 27.Qb5 Bxd7 28.Qxd7 Bh6 29.Qd8+ Bf8 30.Qa8 h6 31.Qxd5 Rxh4 32.a6 fxg2 33.Qxg2* 1-0 Kuzmin,G-Malakhatko,V/Alushta UKR 1999/ *)* 17...Ne5 18.f6 Bg4 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.fxg7+ Kxg7 21.Nc6 Qf6 22.f3 exf3 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.gxf3 Bh5 25.Qe2 Kh8 26.Kh1 Rg8 27.Bc6 Rac8 28.Bd5 Rcd8 29.c4 Rb8 30.Rf2 Rb3 31.a5 Qf4 32.Re1 Rg5 33.a6 Qd4 34.Qd2 Qc5 35.Qxg5 Qxf2 36.Qf6+ 1-0 Parligras, M-Rogozenco,D/Tusnad ROM 2004/]

17.Qg4 Kh8 18.a4!?

[18.Qe4 Rb8 19.a4 f6 *(19...Qg5 20.Nb4 d5 21.Qxd5 Nxb4 22.Qxd7 Red8 23.Qxf7 Nd5 24.Rad1 Nf4 25.Rxd8+ Rxd8 26.Qb7 Qxf5 27.Re1 Rf8 28.Qe4 Qg5 29.Kh1 Qd8 30.Qc2 Qd5 31.Bf1 Nh3 32.f3 Ng5 33.Qd3 Qf7 34.Qc4 Qa7 35.Qh4 h6 36.Rd1 e4 37.fxe4 Qxa4 38.Re1 Nxe4 39.Qe7 Qc2 40.Qh4 Nd2 41.Ba6 Qxb2 42.Qg3 Qxc3 43.Qxc3 Bxc3 44.Re6 Bf6 45.Bb5*

Kg7 46.Rd6 Rc8 47.g3 Rc2 48.Bc6 Nf1 49.Rd7+ Kf8 50.Bd5 Be7 51.Be4 Rb2 52.Rb7 Rd2 53.Rb8+ Kf7 54.Bg2 Ne3 55.Bf3 Rf2 56.Bh5+ Ke6 57.Rb1 Bc5 58.Rc1 Bd4 59.Kg1 Rd2 60.Kh1 Kf6 61.Rb1 Rf2 62.Kg1 Ng4 63.Rb4 Rd2+ 64.Kf1 Ne3+ 65.Ke1 Rxh2 0-1 Grigoriants,S-Shomoev,A/St Petersburg RUS 2004/ *)* 20.b4 Ne7 *(20...Qc8 21.g4 Ne7 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Nxe7 Rxe7 24.Rfd1 Bh6 25.a5 Qc7 26.a6 Qb6 27.b5 Rg8 28.h3 Ra7 29.Qc6 Qxc6 30.bxc6 Bf8 31.Rdb1 d5 32.Rb7 Ra8 33.Rd7 h5 34.Rxd5 hxg4 35.c7 gxh3+ 36.Kh2 Bh6 37.Rd8 Rgxd8 38.cxd8Q+ Rxd8 39.Rb1 e4 40.Kxh3 e3 41.a7 exf2 42.Kg2 Bf4 43.Rb7 Bg3 44.c4 Rg8 45.Kf1 Re8 46.Kg2 Rg8 47.Kf1 Re8 48.Kg2 Rg8 49.Kf1 Re8* ½-½ Brodhuhn,R-Gauglitz,G/ Regionalliga GER 1991/ *)* 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Rfd1 *(22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.a5 Rec8 24.Rfb1 Qd7 25.c4 d5 26.cxd5 Bf8 27.h3 Rb5 28.a6 Qd6 29.a7 Ra8 30.Qc4 Rb6 31.Rc1 Qd7 32.Ra6 Rxb4 33.Qc6 Rxa7 34.Rxa7 Qxa7 35.Qxf6+ Qg7 36.Qe6 Rb8 37.Rc4 e4 38.Rxe4 Qc7 39.g3 Rb6 40.Qe8 Rb8 41.Qc6 Qd8 42.Kg2 Qa5 43.d6 Qxf5 44.d7 Rd8 45.Re8 Rxd7 46.Rxf8+ Qxf8 47.Qxd7 Qa8+ 48.Kh2* 1-0 Almasi,Z-Wang Yue/Paks HUN 2006/ *)* 22...Nxd5 23.Rxd5 Rec8 24.Qd3 Qc7 25.a5 Qxc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.b5 Rb3 28.b6 Bf8 29.Rc1 Bh6 30.Rcd1 Bf8 31.g3 Kg8 32.Kg2 Be7 33.Rc1 Bd8 34.Rxd6 Bxb6 35.axb6 R3xb6 36.Rxb6 Rxb6 37.Rc8+ Kf7 38.Rc7+ Kg8 39.Kf3 Rb4 40.Ke3 Rd4 41.h4 h5 42.Ra7 Rb4 43.Rd7 Ra4 44.Rb7 Rd4 45.f4 Rd5 46.Rb1 Kg7 47.Rb7+ Kg8 48.Rb4 exf4+ 49.Kxf4 Kg7 50.Rb7+ Kh6 51.Rb6 Kg7 52.Rb4 Rc5 53.Rb7+ Kh6 54.Rb8 Rc4+ 55.Kf3 Rc3+ 56.Kf2 ½-½ Krivic,D-Dzenis,R/ corr ICCF 2009/]

[18.Qh5 Rb8 19.a4 e4 20.Rad1 *(20.f3 e3 21.f6 Re5 22.Qxf7 Bh6 23.Bd3 Bf5 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.f4 Qe8 26.Qxe8+ Rxe8 27.Nc7 Rc8 28.g4 e2 29.Rf2 Rxf4 30.Rxf4 Bxf4 31.Ne6 Be3+ 32.Kg2 Kg8 33.Re1 Kf7 34.Rxe2 Kxe6 35.g5 Ne5 36.Rxe3 Kf5 37.h4 Rc4 38.a5 Rxh4 39.a6 Ke6 40.b4 Rg4+ 41.Rg3 Rc4 42.a7 Rc8 43.Rh3 Nc6 44.Rxh7 Ra8 45.f7 Nxa7 46.f8Q Rxf8 47.Rxa7 Rg8 48.Ra5 d5 49.Ra6+ Ke5 50.g6 Ke4 51.Rc6 Rg7 52.Kg3 Kf5 53.b5 Ke5 54.Kg4 Rb7 55.b6 Rg7 56.Kg5* 1-0 Lovik,L-Kawuma,S/ Gibraltar ENG 2008/ *)* 20...Ne5 21.c4 Rg8 22.Rfe1 Bf8 23.Rxe4 Rg5 24.Qe2 Bxf5 25.f4 Bg4 26.Qc2 Bxd1 27.Qxd1 Rg8 28.fxe5 Qg5 29.Qf1 Bg7 30.Nf6 dxe5 31.Nxg8 Rxg8 32.h4 Qg6 33.Qe2 Qd6 34.Qf3 Qe6 35.Re2 f5 36.Qd5 Qf6 37.c5 e4 38.c6 Rd8 39.Qb3 Qxh4 40.g3 Qh3 41.Rh2 Qg4 42.c7 Rd1+ 43.Bf1 Bd4+ 44.Kg2 Rc1 45.Rh4 Qg8 46.Qb7 Rc2+ 47.Kh1 Be5 48.Qb8 Qxb8 49.cxb8Q+ Bxb8 50.Rh5 Rf2 51.Bh3 e3 52.Kg1 Ba7 53.Bf1 e2 54.Bxe2 Rxe2+ 55.Kf1 Rf2+ 56.Ke1 Kg7 57.b4 Kg6 58.Rh3 Ra2 59.a5 Bb8 60.Kd1 Be5 0-1 Berthelot,Y-Lautier,J/France FRA 2003/]

18...e4 19.Rad1

[19.Rfe1 Re5 20.Ne3 Qf6 *(20...Qc7 21.Qf4 Nb8 22.f6 Bf8 23.c4 Be6 24.b4 Nc6 25.Bxc6 Qxc6*

26.a5 Qb7 27.b5 Qc7 28.a6 Qb6 29.Red1 Rc8 30.a7 Ra8 31.Ra6 Qc5 32.h4 Bxc4 33.Rc6 Qxb5 34.Rxc4 Rxa7 35.Rc8 Re8 36.Qg4 Qa4 37.Rd5 1-0 Szava,M-Dimitrijeski, B/corr IECG 2003/) 21.Rad1 Rg8 22.Qe2 Bh6 23.Ng4 Rxg4 24.Qxg4 Bxf5 25.Qe2 *(25.Qg3 Ne7 26.f4 Rc5 27.Qf2 Bg7 28.Ba6 Nc6 29.Bb7 Qe7 30.b4 Rc4 31.Qa2 Rxc3 32.Bxc6 Rxc6 33.Qd5 Qd7 34.b5 Rc8 35.Rc1 Rg8 36.b6 Qe6 37.Red1 Bh6 38.Qxe6 Bxe6 39.a5 Bxf4 40.b7 d5 41.Rc3 e3 42.a6 Bb8 43.Rxe3 Ba7 44.Kf2 Kg7 45.Rc1 Re8 46.Rce1 d4 47.Rd3 Kf6 48.Re4* 1-0 Gutsche,D-Savchak,O/ corr CFC 2004/) 25...d5 26.c4 dxc4 27.Qxc4 Ne7 28.a5 Be6 29.Qd4 Nf5 30.Qd8+ Qxd8 31.Rxd8+ Kg7 32.a6 Rxb5 33.a7 Ra5 34.a8Q Rxa8 35.Rxa8 e3 36.Rd8 Bg5 37.Rd3 exf2+ 38.Kxf2 Bf6 39.Rxe6 fxe6 40.Rd7+ Kg6 41.b4 Ne7 42.b5 Nd5 43.Kf3 h5 44.h3 h4 45.Rd6 Kf5 46.b6 Be5 47.Rc6 Nb4 48.Rc4 Na6 49.Rxh4 Nb8 50.Rc4 Nd7 51.b7 Kg5 52.h4+ Kf5 53.g4+ Kf6 54.Rc8 Bh2 55.g5+ Kg6 56.Ke4 1-0 Tukhaev,A-Firat,B/Ankara TUR 2009/]

[19.Rfd1 Re5 20.Ne3 Qc7 *(20...Qf6 21.Qe2 Rg8 22.Ng4 Qxf5 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.g3 Qg6 25.Qc4 f5 26.Bxc6 Rc8 27.Qa6 Rxc6 28.Qb7 Qe8 29.a5 Rc8 30.a6 Bc6 31.Qb6 f4 32.b4 e3 33.b5 exf2+ 34.Qxf2 Bxb5 35.a7 Bc6 36.Ra6 Ba8 37.Raxd6 Bxd6 38.Rxd6 Qe4 39.Qd4+ Qxd4+ 40.Rxd4 f3 41.Rb4 Rf8 42.Kf2 Kg7 43.Rb8 Kf7 44.g4 Ke7 45.g5 Bc6 46.h4 Rd8 47.Ke3 Re8 48.h5 Kf7+ 49.Kf2 Re2+ 50.Kf1 Ra2 51.g6+ hxg6 52.hxg6+ Kg7 53.Rc8* 0-1 Yeo,M-Kawuma,S/ Eastleigh ENG 2010/) 21.Qe2 *(21.Qf4 Qa7 22.Bxc6 Bxc6 23.Rxd6 Qc5 24.Rad1 Bxa4 25.R1d2 Bb3 26.g4 Ree8 27.f6 Bf8 28.R6d4 Qb5 29.Kg2 Qc6 30.Qg5 Qc5 31.Nf5 e3 32.fxe3 Qc6+ 33.Kg3 Ra1 34.Ne7 Qc7+ 35.Kh3 Rxe7 36.Rd8 Rxe3+ 37.Qxe3* 1-0 Lagarde,M-Kovalev,V/ Moscow RUS 2008/) 21...Rc5 22.Nd5 Qd8 23.Qxe4 Qg5 24.b4 Re8 25.Qf4 Qxf4 26.Nxf4 Rxf5 27.Nd5 Ne5 28.Bxd7 Nxd7 29.a5 Rxd5 30.Rxd5 Bxc3 31.Rb1 Bxb4 32.g3 Bc5 33.Rf5 Ne5 34.Kg2 Re7 35.Rb5 Nc6 36.a6 Nd4 37.Rb8+ Kg7 38.Rg5+ Kf6 39.Rb7 Re2 40.Rg4 Ne6 41.Ra4 Rxf2+ 42.Kh1 Rf1+ 43.Kg2 Rf2+ 44.Kh1 Rf1+ 45.Kg2 Rf2+ 46.Kh1 Ke5 ½-½ Strzemiecki,Z-Sabuk,P/Karpacz POL 2010/]

19...Rc8

[19...Re5 20.Ne3 *(20.Qf4 Bf6 21.Qe3 Rb8 22.c4 Bg5 23.Qc3 f6 24.Qa3 Ne7 25.Nxf6 Bxf5 26.Rxd6 Qf8 27.Nd7 Bxd7 28.Rxd7 e3 29.Qc3 Qf6 30.f4 Bxf4 31.Rxe7 e2 32.Re1 Qxe7 33.Rxe2 Kg8 34.Rxe5 Qxe5 35.Qxe5 Bxe5 36.b3 Kf8 37.a5 Ke7 38.a6 Kd6 39.g4 Kc5 40.Kg2 Rf8 41.h3 Kb4 42.g5 Kxb3 43.c5 Kb4 44.Bd3 Rf7 45.c6 Kc5 46.Be4 Kb6 47.Bd5 Rg7 48.h4 h6 49.Kf3 hxg5 50.h5 g4+ 51.Ke4 Rg5 52.h6 Kxa6 53.h7 Kb6* 0-1 Ortiz Suarez,I-Otero,D/Santa Clara CUB 2005/) 20...d5 *(20...Qf6 21.Qh5 Ra7 22.f4 Re8 23.Kh1 Ne7 24.g4 d5 25.g5 Qb6 26.Bxd7 Rxd7 27.f6 Kg8 28.Qh3 Qc6 29.fxg7 d4 30.cxd4 Nd5 31.f5 Rb7 32.g6*

1-0 Kotronias,V-Papadopoulos,I/ Rhodes GRE 2008/) 21.Rxd5 Rxd5 22.Nxd5 Ne5 23.Qxe4 Bxf5 24.Qxf5 Qxd5 25.Re1 Rd8 26.h3 h6 27.b4 Rd6 28.Re3 Rg6 29.g3 Rg5 30.Qc8+ Kh7 31.h4 Rg6 32.Qf5 Kg8 33.Bf1 Re6 34.a5 Qa2 35.Be2 Qd2 36.Kg2 Qd5+ 37.Qe4 Qxe4+ 38.Rxe4 Nc6 39.Rxe6 fxe6 40.a6 Na7 41.b5 Be5 42.b6 Nc8 43.b7 Na7 44.Bc4 Kf7 45.f4 Bb8 46.f5 Nc6 47.Bxe6+ Kf6 48.Kf3 Na7 49.Bd7 Ke5 50.Kg4 Kf6 51.Ba4 Kg7 52.c4 Bc7 53.c5 Bb8 54.Kh5 Bxg3 55.f6+ Kxf6 56.Kxh6 Be5 57.Kh7 Ke6 58.h5 Kd5 59.h6 Kxc5 60.Kg8 1-0 Kotronias,V-Parligras,M/Dresden GER 2008/]

[19...Nb8 20.Rfe1 Re5 21.Ne3 Qc7 22.Qf4 Bxb5 23.axb5 Nd7 24.c4 Nf6 25.b4 Qb8 26.Rd2 Bf8 27.g4 h6 28.g5 hxg5 29.Qxg5 Be7 30.Qh6+ Nh7 31.Kh1 Qf8 32.Qh5 Bg5 33.Rg1 Bh6 34.b6 Rb8 35.c5 Bxe3 36.fxe3 dxc5 37.Rd7 Re7 38.Rd6 f6 39.bxc5 Rg7 40.Rgd1 1-0 Bokar,J-Ruefenacht,M/corr ICCF 2003/]

[19...Rb8 20.Rfe1 Qc8 *(20...Ne7 21.Qxe4 Nxd5 22.Qxd5 Bxb5 23.axb5 Kg8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.c4 Bxb2 26.Qxd6 Be5 27.Qd5 Qe7 28.g3 Bc7 29.Qf3 Bb6 30.f6 Qf8 31.Rd5 Kh8 32.Rg5 Bd4 33.Rh5 Qg8 34.Qf4 Rd8 35.c5 Qg6 36.Rf5 Rc8 37.b6 Rxc5 38.b7* 1-0 Berg,E-Ekeberg,C/Norway NOR 2009/)

21.Ne3 *(21.Rxe4 Rxe4 22.Qxe4 Bxf5 23.Qf4 Be5 24.Qh4 Qb7 25.b4 Rg8 26.g3 Nd8 27.Qe7 Qc8 28.f4 Bxc3 29.Qe3 Bb2 30.Qe2 Qc2 31.Qxc2 Bxc2 32.Rd2 Be4 33.Rxb2 Bxd5 34.Rd2 Bc6 35.Bxc6 Nxc6 36.b5 Na5 37.Rxd6 Re8 38.b6 Nb7 39.Rd7 Rb8 40.Kf2 Kg7 41.Rc7 Na5 42.Rc5 Nb7 43.Rc4 Rd8 44.Rc7 Na5 45.Ke3 Rd1 46.h4 Rb1 47.Rc5 Nb7* ½-½ Schramm,A-Stephan,P/corr ICCF 2007/) 21...Ne5 22.Qxe4 Bxb5 23.axb5 Rxb5 24.Nd5 Rxb2 25.f6 Bf8 26.f4 Rb5 27.c4 Rc5 28.fxe5 Rxc4 29.Qe3 dxe5 30.Kh1 Qg4 31.Ne7 Rc2 32.Qe4 Qxe4 33.Rxe4 Rd8 34.Rde1 Rd6 35.Rxe5 Rxf6 36.Nf5 h6 37.g4 Bb4 38.R1e2 Rxe2 39.Rxe2 h5 40.h3 hxg4 41.hxg4 Rc6 42.Re4 Bc3 43.g5 Rc5 44.Nd6 Kg7 45.Rg4 Kg6 46.Ne4 Rc4 47.Kg2 Bg7 48.Kf3 Rc1 ½-½ Sebag,M-Ushenina,A/ Krasnoturinsk RUS 2008/]

20.Rfe1 Re5 21.Ne3 Qf6 22.Qe2!

[22.b4 Rg8 *(22...Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Qxf5 24.Qxf5 Rxf5 25.Rxe4 d5 26.Re3 d4 27.Red3 Rf6 28.Rb1 Na7 29.Bd7 Rxc3 30.Rxd4 Rc2 31.f3 Ra2 32.Kh1 Rg6 33.Re4 Bf8 34.b5 Rgxg2 35.Rh4 Be7 36.Rh5 Rgd2 37.Be8 Nc8 38.Bxf7 Rxa4 39.Bg6 Rh4 40.Rxh4 Bxh4 41.b6* ½-½ Staroske,U-Cesetti,C/corr ICCF 2006/*; 22...Bh6 23.Nd5 Qxf5 24.Qxf5 Bxf5 25.Nb6 Rc7 26.Nd5 Rc8 27.Nb6 Rc7 28.Rxd6 Re6 29.Rd5 Ne7 30.Rd8+ Kg7 31.Nc4 e3 32.fxe3 Bc2 33.g3* ½-½ Schilling,F-Reichel,N/corr GER 2007/) 23.Qf4 Bh6 24.Ng4 Rxg4 25.Qxg4 Bxf5 26.Qe2 Ne7 27.a5 Nd5 28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.a6 Qe7 30.Bc4 Rd2 31.Qh5 Bg5 32.Qxf7 Qxf7 33.Bxf7 e3 34.fxe3 Be4 35.g3 Kg7 36.Be6 Rg2+ 37.Kf1 Rxh2 38.Rd1 Bf3 39.Re1 h5 40.Kg1 Rb2 41.c4 Rxb4 42.Kf2 Be4 43.Bd5 Bxd5 44.cxd5 Ra4 45.Rc1 Rxa6 46.Rc6 Rxc6

47.dxc6 Bd8 48.Kf3 Kf6 49.Kf4 Bc7 50.Ke4 Kg5 51.Kd5 Kg4 52.Ke6 Kxg3 53.Kd7 Ba5 0-1 Southwell,H-Siikaluoma,A/corr ICCF 2006/]

[22.Nc4 Bxf5 23.Qg3 Qe7 24.Nxd6 Rc7 25.Nxf5 Rxf5 26.Rxe4 Re5 27.Rxe5 Bxe5 28.Qf3 Qe6 29.g3 Kg7 30.Qe4 Na7 31.Bd3 h6 32.Re1 Re7 33.Re3 Qd6 34.a5 Nc6 35.a6 Kf8 36.Qf5 Qc7 37.Be4 Bd6 38.Qh7 Re6 39.Bxc6 Rxe3 40.Qh8+ Ke7 41.Qe8+ Kf6 42.fxe3 Qb6 43.Bb5 Qa5 44.Kg2 Qa2 45.Kh3 Qd5 46.e4 Qh5+ 47.Kg2 Qd1 48.a7 1-0 Berbatov,K-Pavlidou,E/Bansko BUL 2010/]

22...Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Qxf5

[23...Rxf5 24.Bxc6 Rxc6 25.Qxe4 Rc8 26.Rxd6 Qxd6 27.Qxf5 Rg8 28.Qh5 Qb8 29.Qb5 Bf6 30.Re4 Qxb5 31.axb5 Rb8 32.Rb4 Be7 33.Rb3 Bc5 34.c4 Rb6 35.Rd3 Rf6 36.Rd2 Kg7 37.Kf1 Kf8 38.b3 Ke7 39.f3 Rd6 40.Rxd6 Kxd6 41.Ke2 Bg1 42.h4 Kc5 43.Kd3 Kb4 44.g4 Kxb3 45.f4 Kb4 46.g5 Kc5 47.h5 Kd6 48.Ke4 Bc5 49.f5 Bf2 50.h6 Be1 51.Kf4 Bd2+ 52.Kg4 Be3 53.Kh5 Kc5 54.g6 hxg6+ 55.fxg6 fxg6+ 56.Kxg6 1-0 Spitz,C-Krivic,D/ corr ICCF 2003/]

24.Rxd6 Nb8 25.Rb6!

[25.Red1 Bf6 26.Rb6 *(26.g3 Be7 27.Rd7 Bc5 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29.Rxd8+ Kg7 30.Kg2* ½-½ Rüfenacht,M-Burne,N/corr ICCF 2009/ *)* 26...Kg7 27.Rb7 Nc6 28.Rd6 Rd8 29.Rxc6 Red5 30.g3 Qh3 31.Rxf7+ Kg8 32.Rcxf6 Rd1+ 33.Qf1 Rxf1+ 34.Bxf1 Rd1 35.Rf8+ ½-½ Moreno Carretero,C-Cimicki,D/ corr ICCF 2009/]

[25.g3 Bf6 26.Kg2 h5 27.Red1 h4 28.g4 Qg5 29.f4 exf3+ 30.Qxf3 Rd8 31.Rxd8+ Bxd8 32.Bc4 Bc7 33.h3 f6 ½-½ Moreno Carretero,C-Burgarth, U/corr ICCF 2009/]

[25.h3 Bf8 *(25...Bf6 26.Qg4 Qxg4 27.hxg4 Kg7 28.g3 h6 29.Re3 Rc7 30.b4 Be7 31.Rb6 Nd7 32.Bxd7 Rxd7 33.a5 Rd3 34.Kf1 Bg5 35.Re2 Red5 36.Rc6 Rd1+ 37.Re1 R1d2 38.Re2* ½-½ Gavrilakis,N-Václav,I/corr ICCF 2009/ *)* 26.Rd4 Bc5 27.Rxe4 Rxe4 28.Qxe4 Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Bd6 30.Re3 Nd7 *(30...Qf4 31.Qxf4 Bxf4 32.Re7 Kg7 33.a5 Bd6 34.Rb7 Bg3 35.Kg1 Nc6 36.a6 Re8 37.Bf1* ½-½ Schramm,A-Schwenck,M/corr ICCF 2010/ *)* 31.Rf3 Nc5 32.Qxh7+ Kxh7 33.Rxf2 Kg7 34.g4 Ra8 35.Rd2 Be7 36.Rd4 Ne6 37.Rd7 Bf6 38.Rd5 Nc7 39.Rc5 Ne6 40.Rf5 Rd8 41.Bc4 Rd2 42.Bxe6 fxe6 43.Rb5 e5 44.g5 Bxg5 45.Rxe5 Kg6 46.b4 Ra2 47.a5 Bd2 48.Rc5 Ra3 49.b5 Rxa5 50.Kg2 Bxc3 51.Rxc3 ½-½ Müller,G-Schwenck,M/ corr ICCF 2010/]

25...Rd8

[25...Bf6 26.Rb7 Be7 *(26...Bg5 27.g3 Qg6 28.Bc4 f5 29.Rd1 f4 30.Rd5* ½-½ Dobrica,D-Kudryavtsev,N/ corr ICCF 2009/ *)* 27.Rd1 Nc6 28.b4 e3 29.fxe3 Qg5 30.e4 Nd8 31.Rbd7 Rxc3 32.Qb2 Rc8 33.Bf1 Kg8 34.R1d3 Qf6 35.Rg3+ ½-½ Karacsony,Z-Schmidt,T/corr ICCF 2010/]

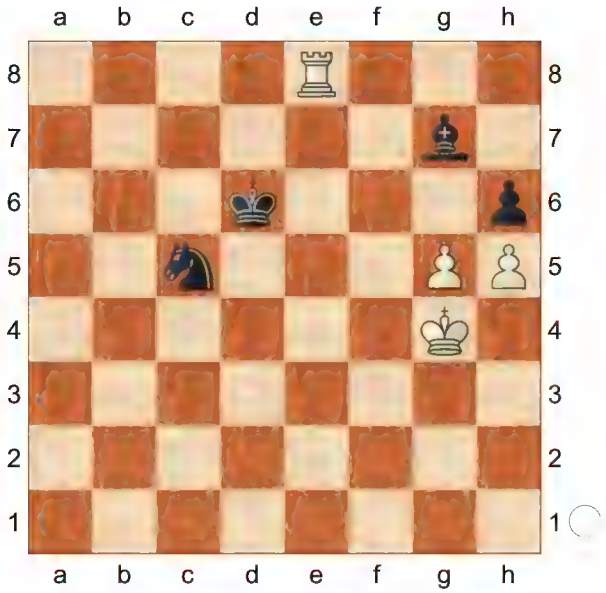
26.Rb7

[26.g3?! Bf8 27.Rb7 e3 28.f4 Re6 29.Qf3 Qc2↑ Myers]

26...Bh6 27.Bc4 Qc8 28.Rxf7 Rd2! 29.Qf1 Rxb2 30.a5 Rxa5

[30...Qe8!? 31.Ra1 Nc6 32.a6 Ra5 33.Rb1 Rxb1 34.Qxb1 Bf8± Myers]

31.Rxe4 Rf5
[31...Nd7!? 2.72/11 31...Rf5 0.83 32.Qe1! White threatens Re8+ and mate. Rb8 33.Bf1 0.31/11 *(*Better is *33.g3!±* 1.59/10 *Nf8 34.Qd1)* 33...Nf8!± 34.c4 -0.02/12 *(34.Rh4±* 0.42/19 should be considered. *Bg7 35.Qe4)* 34...Rf5= 35.Qc3+ Kg8 36.Rxf5 Qxf5 37.Qg3+ Kh8! 38.Qxb8 Qxe4 39.c5± Myers]
32.Be6! Rbxf2 33.Bxf5 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Qa6+
[And not 34...Qxc3 35.Re8+]
35.c4! Kg8 36.Be6 Kh8 37.g3! Qa3? 1.11/12
[37...Qa4+- 3.01/15 38.Bf5 Kg8 39.Rxh7 *(39.Bxh7+ Kxf7 40.Re1 Qxc4+ 41.Kg2 Qd5+ 42.Kh3 Qd7+ 43.g4 Qd2-+)* 39...Qc6 40.Rg4+ Kf8]
38.Kg2!± Nc6 39.Rg4! Nd8 3.88/14
[39...Qa8 40.Bd5 aiming for Rc7. Qe8 41.Re4 Ne5 42.c5 Bg7 43.c6! Qc8 44.Rb7! Nxc6? 5.27/11 *(44...Qf8* 2.93/7 *)* 45.Bxc6+- Qxc6 46.Rb8+ Bf8 47.Rxf8+ Kg7 48.Rfe8!+- Myers]
[⌓39...Qa8 2.55/14]
40.Rf3!+-
[Less strong is 40.Rg8+ Kxg8 41.Ra7+ Nxe6+-]
40...Qa2+
[40...Qxf3+ 5.11/10 40...Qb2+ 3.64 41.Kxf3 Nxe6 42.Ke4 Nc5+ 43.Kd4 Nd7 44.Rh4 Bf8 45.Kd5 Black must now prevent Ke6. Nb6+ 46.Ke6 Kg7 47.Rg4+ Kh6 48.Kf7+- Myers]
41.Rf2 Qxf2+ 42.Kxf2 Nxe6 43.Kf3 Nc5 44.h4
[44.Rd4 Bf8 45.Kg4 Kg8 46.Kf5 Wards off Ne6. Threatens to win with g4. Be7 3.51/11 *(⌓46...Nb7* 2.06/11 *47.Ke6 Nc5+ 48.Kf5 Kf7)* 47.Rd2+- Kf7 48.Ra2 Nd3 3.69/14 *(⌓48...Ne6* 2.33/10 *49.Ra4 Bc5)* 49.Ra5 Bc5? 4.99/20 *(49...Nc5* 2.91/20 *50.Ra7 h5)* 50.g4+- Bf2 51.Ra8+- Myers]
44...Bf8 4.83/22
[⌓44...Bg7 3.26/19 45.Rg5 Bf8]
45.Kf4+- Bg7 46.Kf5
[46.h5!? Bf6 47.Kf5 Bg7 48.Rf4 h6? 5.92/14 *(48...Bb2* 2.14/8 *49.Rf2 Bc1)* 49.Rf3+- Re3 is the strong threat. Kh7? 6.52/17 *(49...Kg8* 3.19/10 *50.Ra3 Bd4)* 50.Re3+- Bf8 51.Ra3 Kg8 52.Kg6+- Myers]
46...Kg8 47.Rf4! Kf7 48.g4 h6
[48...Ke7 49.g5 Nb7 50.Kg4 Nc5 51.Rf1 Ke6 52.Re1+ Kd6 53.Re8 Ne6 5.22/18 *(⌓53...Kd7* 3.45/10 *54.Rb8 Ne6)* 54.h5+- h6 55.c5+! Nxc5



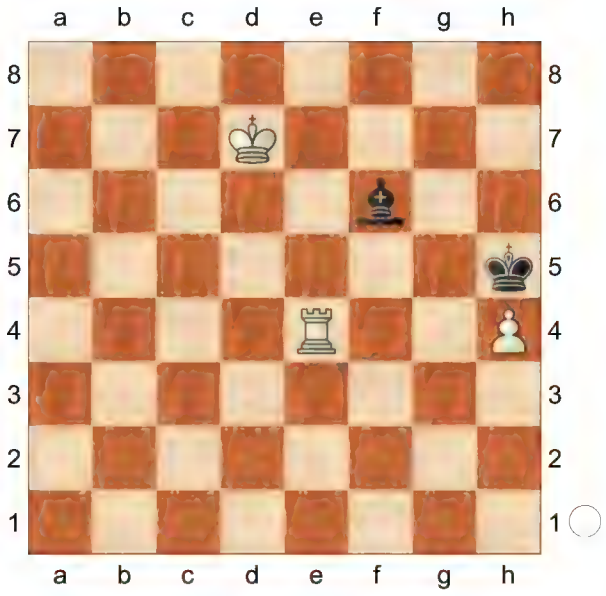
56.Rg8!+- Myers]
49.g5 hxg5 50.Kxg5+ Kg8? 5.73/20
[50...Ke6 2.01/21 is a better chance. 51.h5 Nd7]
51.Kg6+- Nd7 52.Re4 Ne5+ 3.18/11
[52...Bc3 1.92/10 keeps fighting. 53.Kf5 Bb4]
53.Kf5+- Nc6 54.Ke6 Kh7 55.c5 Kh6 9.23/19

[55...Kg6 56.Kd6 Kf5 Prevents Rg4. 57.Re1 Na7 8.12/12 *(⌓57...Nb4 4.78/13 58.Rf1+ Kg6)* 58.Rb1+- Hoping for Rb7. Bf6 59.Kd7 Bd4 60.c6 Be5 61.Rb7 Nc8 62.Kxc8 Threatening mate with Kd7. Ke6 63.c7+- 16.49/16 Myers *(⌓63.Kd8 #34/17 Bc3 64.c7 Ba5 65.Rb5 Bxc7+ 66.Kxc7 Kf7 67.Kd7 Kf6 68.h5)*]

[⌓55...Bf8 5.01/33 56.Kd5 Ne7+ 57.Kc4 Kg6 58.Re6+ Kf5]

56.Kd6 Na5 57.c6 Nxc6 58.Kxc6 Kh5

Myers: It is a complete mystery why players in this class continue to play an endgame that has already been worked out and stored in the table base. **59.Kd7 Bf6**



60.Ke6! Bb2 61.Rc4 Ba3 62.Kf5 Bd6 63.Rc6 Bh2 64.Rc2 Bd6 65.Rd2 Bc5 66.Kf4 Bb4 67.Rd8 Bc3 68.Kg3 Be5+ 69.Kh3 Bf4 70.Rd5+ Kg6 71.Kg4 Be3 72.h5+ Kh6 73.Rd6+

1-0

B33

□ **Fedorov,Alexei** **2620**

■ **Gyimesi,Zoltan** **2618**

TCh Rabat CRO (6) 10.09.2004

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

ChessBase II: 'LesEchecs.com: 'B33: Défense sicilienne (variante Löwenthal avec 4.Cf6)

" 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5

Although the Advance Variation has increased massively in popularity, the very sharp line with 5 g4 and 6 Nge2 hasn't followed. Black has a number of interesting and very satisfactory responses, one of which we see here. In my view, Black must start with 6...c5! **6...d6!** Quite right! A vigorous reaction in the centre is indicated. **7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5** Black is only too willing to sacrifice the incidental h pawn to increase his central pressure. **9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6** I think the main reason I don't like this line for White has to do with the pawn structure. When the smoke clears,. Black usually holds all the trumps in that area. It's almost as if White has no Plan B if the attack breaks down, he has nothing left to call on. **10...Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Be2**

[12.Nc2]

12...Bg5N White's position is fragmented and he faces threats such as ...Qb6 so he's trying to keep his game alive with tactics. Gyimesi's novelty is cool, hanging g7 as usual, but he's gaining a lot of time if White goes in and takes the pawn (which of course he doesn't). It may be that Black has more than one good move: **13.Nc2 Be6**

[13...Rb8]
[13...Ne7 14.Ncb4 a5 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Nd5 Qb7 17.Qd3 b4 18.cxb4 axb4 19.Qg3 h6 20.0-0 Kh8 21.Qb3 Rb8 22.Rad1 f5 23.Bf3 Qa7 24.Nxb4 fxe4 25.Bxe4 Bg4 26.a3 Bxd1 27.Qxd1 Rbc8 28.g3 Almasi,Z (2628)-Shirov,A (2713) FRA-chT Top 16 GpB 2005 (7.2) 0-1]

14.0-0 Ne7N
[14...Rb8 15.Nce3 g6 16.Qc2 Kg7 17.Rfd1 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.Nf1 Rc8 20.Qd3 e4 21.Qc2 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 Nb4 23.Qb3 Nxd5 24.Qxd5 Qe7 25.Rd1 Qe5 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 Rf6 28.Rd7+ Rf7 29.Rd6 Aiyan,R (1450)-Bharadia,Y (2092) Asia-ch Blitz U20 2023 (1) 0-1]

15.Ncb4! -0.30/21 The only move to hold the position together, covering e3.
[⌓15.Nce3 0.10/24]

15...Kh8 0.38/25
[15...a5 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 Compare the pawns and you see what I mean! 17.Nc6? -2.01/22 *(17.Nd5 Qb7; 17.Nc2∓* -0.31/26 *)* 17...Qb7-+ 18.Qxd6 Ra6 19.Qxe5 Bf6! 20.Qxb5 Rb6 21.Nxa5 Rxb5 22.Nxb7 Rxb7]
[15...a5= -0.30/21 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7]

16.a4? I don't unde rstand this move from a 2600 player. What was going through his head? It's pretty obvious that White has to try **16...bxa4** White has an edge. **17.Rxa4**
[Much worse is 17.Qxa4 a5 18.Nc6 Nxc6 19.Qxc6 Rc8=]

17...a5 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd5 -0.42/19
[19.Qa1= -0.05/22]

19...Qb7∓ 20.b4 f5 0.40/22 He has no wish to face the endgame after 21 Qxd4 Nxd4 22 Rd1 Rxc3.5 g4 and 6 Nge2 is a variation for the committed. It's very sharp and very well analysed so you have to know a lot. Black has numerous interesting ideas in response. Finally, you have no plan B if the attack breaks down maybe that's part of the attraction anyway!
[20...Bxd5∓ -0.44/23 21.exd5 axb4 22.Rxb4 Qe7]

21.bxa5±
[21.Bf3 -0.93/22 21.bxa5 0.45]

21...fxe4 22.Nb6↑ White is more active.

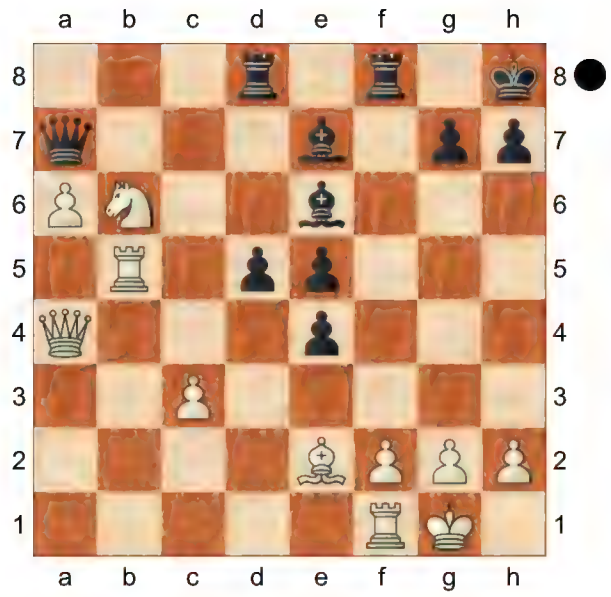
22...Rad8 23.Rb4 -0.47/18
[23.c4!± 0.36/22]

23...d5 24.a6 Qa7 aiming for ...d4!

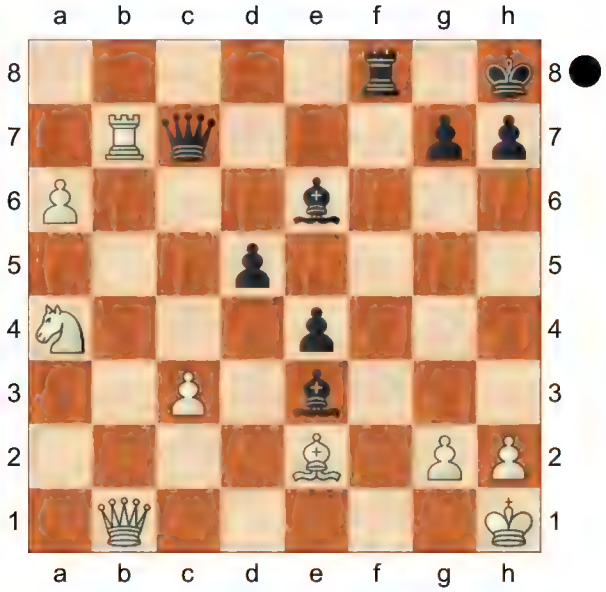
25.Qa4! -1.75/20
[25.Na4!∓ -0.41/18 Rf7 26.h3]

25...Be7 -0.64/20
[25...e3 26.f3 -2.52/22 *(⌓26.f4* -1.63/21 *Be7 27.Rb5)*
A) 26...Be7 27.Rb5 -2.29/23 *(⌓27.Rb2* -1.78/20 *)* 27...Rd6!∓ -1.32/16 *(27...d4 28.cxd4 exd4* Threatens to win with ...d3. *29.Bd3!; 27...Bf7-+* -2.29/23 *28.Rb2 d4 29.cxd4 exd4)* 28.Rfb1 Not many take on g7 but perhaps it is possible: Bf5! 29.R1b2 d4 -0.41/18 *(29...Bg6!∓* -1.45/19 Hoping for ...d4. *30.Rxd5 Rxb6 31.Rxb6 Qxb6)* 30.cxd4∓ exd4 0.50/6 *(*Black should play *30...Rxd4∓* -0.53/21 *31.Qb3 Qxa6)* 31.Rxf5! Naturally Black holds a strong initiative.;
B) 26...d4-+ 27.cxd4 exd4 ...d3 is the strong threat. 28.Bd3= -3.16/20 The fight seems to be evenly balanced. *(⌓28.Rd1* -1.93/19 *Rd6 29.Qa5)* 28...Bf5]
[25...e3-+ -1.75/20 26.Qc6 exf2+ 27.Kh1 Rf6]

26.Rb5 -1.57/20
[26.Rbb1!∓ -0.64/20]



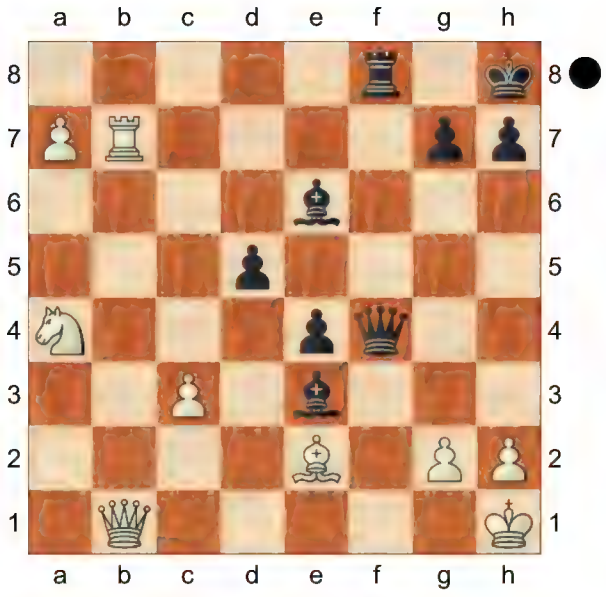
26...e3 -0.17/18 **27.fxe3= Bg5** 0.71/22
[27...Rxf1+= 0.00/16 28.Bxf1 Bd7 *(28...Bg5 29.Kh1=)*]
28.Qb4∓ -4.09/21
[28.Rxf8+± 0.71/22 and life is bright. Rxf8 29.Kh1 *(29.Nxd5 Bxd5* Remove Defender *30.Rxd5 Qxe3+ 31.Kh1 Qxe2 32.h4 Qe1+ 33.Kh2 Bf4+)*]
28...Bxe3+ This pair of bishops is nice.
29.Kh1 Rxf1+ and this posit ion is uncomfortable but you can play..... 16 Kf1 is obviously going to lead to immediate problems. Maybe **30.Bxf1** was playable, not so much grabbing a pawn as downgrading White's pawn structure still further: **30...Qf7**
[30...Qxa6∓ Two heavyweights duel after 31.Qe7 Rg8 32.Qxe6? -6.35/20 *(32.Na4* -3.23/21 *)* 32...Rf8]
31.Qb1 Qf2 Inhibits Be2.
[31...Rf8! This time I think it's unwise to take on h7: 32.Be2 Qf2? -0.02/24 *(32...Bg4!-+* -2.90/21 *33.Bd3 Bh3)* 33.a7= And now Rb2 would win. Qxe2 34.a8Q Rxa8 35.Nxa8]
32.Bd3
[32.a7? -#1/17 32.Bd3 -3.55 Qg1#]
32...e4 33.Rb2 Qf7 is better, but White still ends up with structural problems:
34.Be2 Qc7 35.Na4 White is weak on the dark squares **35...Bc8** Inhibits Rb7.
36.Nb6 Be6
[36...Qxc3? too greedy. 37.Rc2 Qa3 38.Nxc8+- *(38.Rxc8 Bxb6 39.Rxd8+ Bxd8=)*]
37.Na4 -3.16/24
[⌓37.Rb5 -2.16/21]
37...Bc8? -0.13/19
[37...Rf8 38.Rb7



Qf4! White must now prevent ...Bg4.
39.a7

(Diagram)

Bxa7!↑ *(39...Qf2?* 0.00/32 39...Bxa7 -2.82 *40.Nb6!)* 40.Rxa7!? I think I pre fer to retain the option of ...Qb6 in one move, but it must be said that 12... Qc7 looks good! Qf2 Dodges Nc5 41.Rb7 -8.13/26 *(41.Nc5 Qxe2 42.Ra1∓* Bae, T-Hermansson, E/Aarhus 2003 *Bc8; ⌓41.Nc5* -4.01/19 *Qxe2 42.Ra1)* 41...Qxe2-+ 42.Rb8 Rxb8 43.Qxb8+ Bg8]



[Better is 37...Rf8-+ -3.16/24 ...Qf4 would now be deadly. 38.Qa1 Qe5]

38.Nb6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.63.
Loses game: White=1 ---
Missed win: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=6 Black=5
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=2
OK: White=4 Black=7
Best: White=6 Black=4 . Loss on time!?

0-1

B33

□ **Zuyev,Igor** **2435**
■ **Pap,Misa** **2473**

Heusenstamm Sparkassen op-A 5th (5)
[Gutman,Lev, MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 Etwas überraschende Eröffnungswahl - Zweispringerspiel gegen einen der Experten in der Variante. **8...b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7!? 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.0-0 f5 14.c4? 0-0 15.Qf3**

[15.exf5 e4 16.f6 Bxf6∓]

15...d5 0.48/19 **16.cxd5± fxe4**

[16...f4 0.97/24 16...fxe4 0.51 17.Rfc1 Kh8 18.Nc2 Bd7 19.Ne1 Rg8 20.Be2 Bf8 21.Nd3= 0.61/22 *(21.Rc2±* 1.00/18 *)* 21...Re8 22.Rc7 Qd8 23.Rac1 Rg6 1.44/21 *(23...Bd6±* 0.53/15 *24.Rb7 Rg5)* 24.Qh5]

17.Bxe4 Rb8 White is slightly better.

[17...Qd7 18.d6! Rb8 19.Rad1 Rb6 Prevents Bc6. 20.Qc3! Qc5 is the strong threat. *(20.Bd5* -0.19/17 20.Qc3 0.72 *Rxd6 21.Bb3 Kh8)*

A) 20...Rd8 1.76/23 20...Rxd6 0.90 21.Bf5! Qxf5 2.58/20 *(⌓21...Qc6* 1.65/21 *22.Qxc6 Rxc6)* 22.Qc7;

B) 20...f5? 2.43/21 20...Bb7 0.70 21.Qc5= Nakamura-Onischuk, USA ch Saint Louis 2015;

C) 20...Rxd6 21.Bf5!]

18.Rfd1

[18.Rad1 Rb6 *(18...Qd7* 0.66/19 18...Rb6 0.06 *19.d6 Rb6* Prevents Bc6. *20.Qc3! Rxd6 21.Bf5!)* 19.Qd3 Qd7 20.g3 f5= Kristensen-Hector, Copenhagen 2017 21.Bg2! Rh6= Westerberg-Heimann, Skopje 2015]

18...Qd7N

[18...Qh4 ...Bg4 would now be deadly. 19.g3± Pap-Todorovic, Backa Palanka 2002 Qg5!? ist üblich 20.Qb3!? Threatening Nc2. Bg4 0.57/21 *(20...Kh8=* 0.15/22 *)* 21.Bf3!±

f5 1.28/24 *(21...Bxf3± 0.59/16 22.Qxf3 e4)* 22.Bxg4± Qxg4 23.d6+ Kh8 24.Qd5 f4 25.Nc2 Qg6 1.55/15 *(⌓25...Rbd8* 1.16/21 *)* 26.Nb4 Qg4 27.Nc6 f3 28.Nxe5 Qh5 29.Nxf3 Qxf3 30.Qxf3 Rxf3 31.d7 Rd8 32.Rd2 Kg8 33.Kg2 Rf5 34.Rc1 Kf7 35.f4 b4 36.Rc4 Rb5 37.Kf3 b3 38.Ra4 bxa2 39.Rxa6 Rxb2 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2735)-♘d7 10.d4 (2656) (ch) 81/(222) 2000 (4) ½-½]

[18...Rb6 19.Rac1 f5± 3.05/19 Pap-Nagy, Boeblingen 2017 *(19...Qd8!=* 0.23/12*; 19...Bd7 20.Rc6 Bxc6 21.dxc6 f5 22.Bxf5 Qc5 23.Qh5 h6 24.Qg6 Rxc6 25.Qh7+ Kf7 26.Bg4 Rg6 27.b4 Qc6 28.Bf3 Qf6 29.Be4 Ke7 30.f3 Rg5 31.Bd5 Qg6 32.Qxg6 Rxg6 33.Nc2 h5 34.Be4* 6.Nf3 Bc3 (2648)-Spens,W (2561) USSR (ch) 20/231 1975 0-1 *)* 20.Rxc8!+- Rxc8 21.Qxf5]

[18...f5 19.d6]

[18...Qg5 19.d6 Rd8 20.Nc2 Bg4 21.Qg3 Qf4 22.f3 Be6 23.Qxf4 exf4 24.Nd4 Rxd6 25.Nxe6 Rxe6 26.Rd2 Be5 27.Rad1 Rbe8 28.b3 Kg7 29.Rd5 Rh6 30.Rc1 Re7 31.Rcd1 Re8 32.Rc1 Rd6 33.Rxd6 Ochs,M (2383)-ASbjaRnsson,A (2408) WS/SIM/B/2 ICCF 2019 ½-½]

19.d6

[19.Rac1 0.06/21 19.d6 0.51 f5]

19...Rb6! 20.Qd3 Rd8 21.Rac1

And now Rc7 would win.

[21.Bxh7+ Kh8=]

21...Bf8! 22.Qg3+!

[22.Rc7 0.03/11 22.Qg3+ 0.62 Qxc7! 23.Bxh7+∓ Trent-Hebden, Blackpool 2005 Kg7 24.dxc7 Rxd3 25.Bxd3 Rc6 Inhibits Rc1. *(25...Bxa3 26.bxa3* Strongly threatening Be4. *Rc6)* 26.Nc2 Rxc7 27.Ne3± Turov-Demchenko, Maikop 2004 Be6]

[22.Bxh7+ Kg7 23.Qe3 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Qxd6]

22...Bg7 23.Qd3

[23.Rc7? -5.49/18 23.Qh4 0.60 Qxc7]

23...Bf8! 24.Qg3+ Bg7 25.Qh4! Rxd6 26.Bxh7+? Kf8 27.Qb4! Bb7 28.Nc2!

[28.Rxd6 -0.06/22 28.Nc2 0.58 Qxd6 29.Qxd6+ Rxd6 30.Bc2 -1.33/23 *(30.Nc2=* -0.13/20 keeps the balance. *)* 30...e4]

28...Qe7 29.Rxd6 Rxd6

[29...Qxd6 30.Qxd6+ Rxd6∓ Tolnai-Portish, HUN chT 1987/88 31.Ne3]

30.Qg4 0.06/17

[30.Qe1± 0.55/13]

30...Rh6!⇄ Black is not keeping still

31.Bf5∓

[31.Qf5 feels hotter. Qh4 32.Ne1 Rxh7 33.Rc7]

31...Rh4 32.Qd1 Bh6! White must now prevent ...Bxg2! A strong pair of Bishops.

33.Ne3

[33.Ra1 Bf4]

33...Bxe3! 34.fxe3 Bxg2 Decoy

35.Rc8+

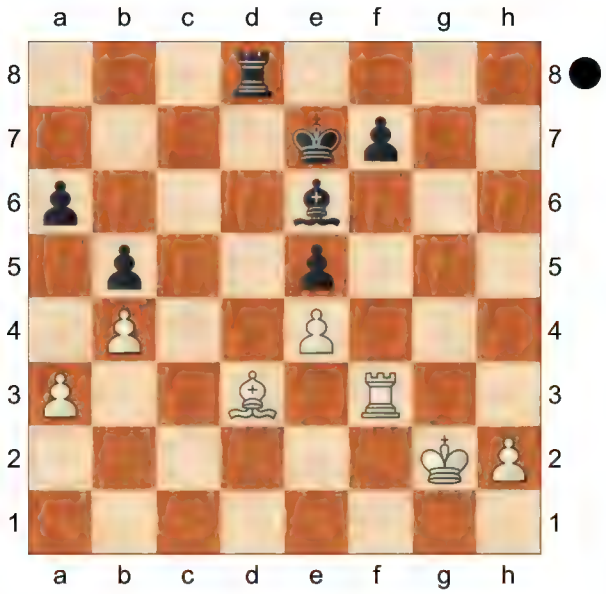
[35.Kxg2= Qg5+ 36.Kh1 Qd6+ would kill now. Qxf5]

[Don't play 35.Kxg2 Qg5+ 36.Kh1 Qxf5 37.Qd6+ *(37.Qd8+ Kg7∓)* 37...Kg7 38.Rg1+ Kh7∓]

[35.Kxg2!? Qg5+□ 36.Kh1 Qxf5 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.Rg1+ *(38.Qxh4? Qf3+ 39.Kg1 Qxe3+ 40.Kg2 Qxc1-+)* 38...Rg4 39.Rxg4+ Qxg4 40.Qd2∓]

35...Kg7 36.Qe1! White wants to mate with Qg3+. **36...Qg5 37.Qg3** Against Rh3 **37...Kf6** Really sharp!

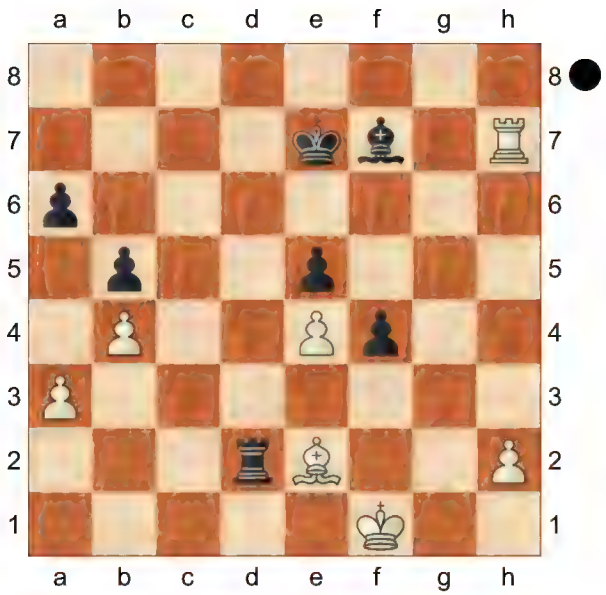
38.Qxg5+
[38.Bd7 is more complex. Bd5 39.Qxg5+ Kxg5 40.a3]
38...Kxg5= Endgame. KRB-KRB
39.Bd3 Bd5 40.Rg8+ Kf6 41.a3 Rh3 42.Rg3 Rh8 43.e4! Be6 44.Kg2 Rd8 45.Rf3+ Ke7 With the idea ...f5! **46.b4?** -2.17/22
[46.Kf2]
[46.Kg3= -0.14/26]



Now White is beyond hope. **46...f5!-+**
47.Rh3
[47.exf5? -5.41/28 47.h4 -2.50 Bd5]
[47.exf5? too greedy. Bd5 48.Be2 Kf6-+ *(48...Bxf3+? 49.Kxf3 Kf6 50.h4-+)*]
[47.h4 f4]
47...f4 48.Rh7+ Bf7!? 49.Be2 Rd2 50.Kf1

(Diagram)

Kf6! Threatens to win with ...Bc4. **51.h4?** -4.55/23
[51.Bf3 -2.60/18]
51...Bg6 52.Ra7 Bxe4 Black is clearly winning. **53.Bg4**



[53.Rxa6+ Kf5 Hoping for ...f3. 54.Bxb5 f3]
53...f3 54.Rxa6+ Kg7∓ Nowak-Daurelle, email 2010. aiming for ...Bd3+. **55.Ra7+ Kf8 56.Rd7 Bd3+ 57.Ke1 f2+ 58.Kxd2 f1Q**
[58...f1B? loses. 59.Rxd3 Bg2 60.Re3+-]
59.Rd8+ Ke7 60.Rd7+ Ke8 61.Rxd3 Qf4+ 62.Re3 Qd4+± Nakamura-Hebden, Gibraltar 2008.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.02 (flawless) .
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=2 ---
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=15
Black=11
Best: White=5
Black=8
Strong: White=5
Black=7
Brilliant: ---
Black=1
[62...Qxg4 63.Rxe5+ Kd7]
[62...Qd4+ 63.Rd3 Qxg4]
0-1

B33

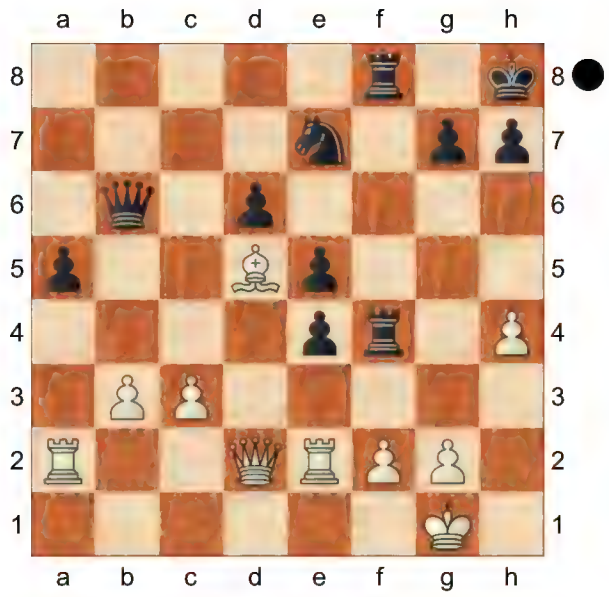
□ **Dubrovich,Igor** **2033**
■ **Felgaer,Ruben Alejandro** **2565**
Mar del Plata op 53rd (2) 24.03.2024
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 0-0 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 15.Bc4 Rb8 16.b3 Kh8 17.Nce3 Bb7N Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[17...Be6 18.h4 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Qb6 20.0-0 Bxc4 21.Rxc4 Ne7 22.h5 f5 23.h6 gxh6 24.Qh5 fxe4 25.Rxe4 Ng6 26.Rg4 Rg8 27.Nf5 Rbf8 28.Nxh6 Rg7 29.g3 d5 30.Kg2 Qf6 31.f3 e4 32.f4 Barrientos,S (2432)-Fluvia Poyatos,J (2478) 96/(102) Badalona 2005]
[17...g6 18.h4 Bxh4 19.g3 Bg5 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 Bh4+ 22.Kd2 *(22.Kf1 f5 23.exf5 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Rxf5 25.Qg4 Bg5 26.Kg2 Bxf4 27.Nxf4 Rg5 28.Nxg6+ Kg7* 8.Nd4 Ng4 9.e3 d6 (2661)-Jordan,T (2471) (ol) 73/(87) 1998 (4) 0-1 *)* 22...Ne7 23.Kc1 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Be6 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.Ra2 Bxd5 27.Qxd5 Qf6 28.Qd2 Bg3 29.Rf1 h5 *(29...d5 30.Bxd5 g5* Sveshnikov Nd5-Positional Line Open Sicilians 2019 *)* 30.Rxa5 Ra8 31.e5 Qf5 32.Rxa8 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2757)-Logan,T (2749) NED-ch sf Leeuwarden 2001 (4) ½-½]
[17...Ne7 18.Nxe7 Qxe7 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.Qa1 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Rxa5 Bc2 23.0-0 Bxb3 24.Bxb3 Rxb3 25.Ra7 Qc8 26.Qa4 Qc5 27.Qxb3 Qxa7 28.Qb4 Qf7 29.Qe4 Bd8 30.g3 Qa7 31.Qb4 Bc7 32.Qb5 Chapter-Games Chapter 37 Game 1]

18.h4N -0.10/21 **Bxe3= 19.Nxe3** Strongly threatening Nf5. The position is equal. **19...Ne7 20.Nd5! Bc6 21.Ra2 Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Qc7 23.Bc4** -0.79/20
[23.0-0= 0.06/19 remains equal.]
23...f5∓ 24.0-0 fxe4 25.Qd2 Qb6 -0.12/16 Black is more active.
[Black should try 25...Rbd8∓ -0.62/18 26.Bd5 Nxd5 27.Qxd5 Qxc3]
26.Re1= Rf4
[26...Rfd8 simplifies 27.Bd5 Nxd5 28.Qxd5 Qxb3 29.Qxb3 Rxb3 30.Rxa5 Rxc3 31.Rxe4 Rc5]
27.Bd5? -1.67/20
[27.Qe3!= -0.13/17]
27...Rbf8-+
[27...Rxh4 28.Bxe4 Ng8 29.g3=]
28.Re2

(Diagram)

h6? -0.06/20



[Don't play 28...Rxh4?! 29.Bxe4 d5 30.Qg5 *(30.Bxd5? Nxd5 31.Qg5 Rh6-+)* 30...Rxe4 31.Rxe4 *(31.Qxe7 Rxf2 32.Rxf2 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Qh6+ 34.Kg3 Qg6+ 35.Kh2 Qh6+ 36.Kg3 Qg6+ 37.Kh2 Qh6+=)* 31...dxe4 32.Qxe7=]

[Better is 28...e3!-+ -1.68/23 29.fxe3 Nf5 *(29...Rxh4 30.Qd3∓)*]

29.Bxe4= Nf5 30.Bxf5 R8xf5 31.Qd5 -0.79/21

[31.Qd3= 0.00/21 keeps the balance.]

31...e4!↑ Black is on the roll. **32.Qe6** -1.63/20

[32.Qd4∓ -0.97/21 keeps fighting. Qxd4 *(32...Qxb3 33.Rab2∓)* 33.cxd4]

32...Re5-+ 33.Qc8+ Kh7 34.g3 Rf3 35.Kg2 -1.78/17

[35.Kh2∓ -1.33/20]

35...Qxb3 36.Qc7 -2.83/20

[36.Qc6∓ -1.38/17]

36...Rd3

[Weaker is 36...Rxc3 37.Qxd6 Rcc5 38.Qd2∓]

37.Rxa5? -6.20/21

[37.Kh2 -2.29/19]

37...Rxc3

[37...Qxc3? is the wrong capture. 38.Qxc3 Rxc3 39.Rxe5 dxe5 40.Rxe4±]

38.Qd8 Rc1 Black mates. **39.Re3 Qd1 40.Kh3 Qf1+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.72/ Black=0.21 (precise) .

Missed win: --- Black=1

Mistake: White=8 Black=1

Inaccurate: White=1 ---

OK: White=6 Black=4

Best: White=1 Black=7

Strong: White=1 Black=1

0-1

B33

□ **Kostakiev,Dimitar** **2498**

■ **Morgado,Juan Sebastian** **2605**

email ICCF XIV Olimpíada Board 3

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

Kostakiev,Dimitar: 'Kostakiev,D: 'Inf 80/ (149)" **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.c4 f5 12.cxb5 Nd4** Black wants to play ...0-0. **13.bxa6** -0.52/11

[13.Bd3= -0.06/10]

13...0-0∓ 14.Nb5 fxe4

[Of course not 14...Nxb5?! 15.Bxb5 Qa5+ 16.Nc3 Bxa6 17.Be2± *(17.Bxa6 Qxa6 18.exf5 Rfb8±)*]

15.Nbc7 Against Be6. Black is slightly

better. **15...Ra7 16.Rc1**

e3 0.12/10 **17.fxe3=** Qh5! is the strong threat. **17...Qh4+ 18.Kd2** The position is equal. **18...Qf2+ 19.Be2 Bxa6N**
[19...Bg4 is interesting. 20.Qf1 Qxe2+ 21.Qxe2 Bxe2 22.exd4 Bxa6 23.Rc6 Bb7]
20.Nxa6
[20.exd4? perishes. Bh6+ *(20...Qxg2?* loses. *21.Rg1+-)* 21.Kc3 Bxe2-+]
20...Rxa6 21.Rf1 The board is on fire.
[21.Ne7+ is more complex. Kh8 22.Rf1 Qxe2+ 23.Qxe2 Nxe2 24.Kxe2 Rxa2 25.Rc2]
21...Qxe2+ 22.Qxe2 Nxe2 23.Kxe2 Black must now prevent b4. **23...Rxa2 24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.Rc2 e4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless) .
Mistake: --- Black=1
OK: White=6 Black=7
Best: White=2 Black=2
½-½

B33
□ **Pieper,Thomas** **2129**
■ **Harstad,Christian** **1917**
WchT Seniors 50 (6.4) 07.07.2024
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2 0-0 Nowadays more popular than 12...a5. Heutzutage beliebter als 12...a5. **13.h4 g6N** White has an edge.
[13...Be6 14.g3 a5 15.Bh3 *(15.Qd3 Nd4 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Nxd4 exd4 18.Rd1* 9.Nd5-Be7-10.Bf6-11.c4-For White _37209 2011 *)* 15...a4 16.Kf1 *(16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Ndxb4 Nxb4 18.Nxb4 Qb6 19.Nd3 a3 20.Qe2 axb2 21.Nxb2 Ra3* Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines-Sveshnikov 9. Nd5 sidelines # *)* 16...b3 17.Nce3 Nd4 18.Kg2 Rb8 19.a3 g6 20.Rc1 Bg7 21.h5 f5 22.Rh2 Qg5 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.Kh1 Rf7 25.c5 dxc5 4.e3 00 5. Nf3 d5 (2335)-Szafarczyk,W (2436) Jugoslavija 65/234 1996 0-1]
[13...Rb8 14.b3 a5 15.g3 Be7 16.Bh3 Be6 17.Kf1 Qd7 18.Kg2 Bd8 19.Qd3 Qa7 20.Rad1 Bb6 21.Nxb6 Qxb6 22.Rd2 Rbd8 23.Rhd1 Qc7 24.Qe3 h6 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.c5 dxc5 27.Qxc5 Rxd2 28.Rxd2 Panov Botvinnik Attack (2706)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2679) A1) 7...Nc6 2010 1-0]
14.g3 Bg7 15.Bg2 a5 16.Qd2N
[Vorgänger: 16.h5 Be6 17.Qd3 Rb8 18.b3 Ra8 19.Rd1 Nb8 0.90/17 *(19...Bxd5=* 0.27/17 remains equal. *20.Qxd5 Qb6)* 20.Nde3 0.31/16

(20.h6± 0.90/17 Bh8 21.a3)
20...Ra7 0.69/18 *(20...Na6* 0.31/16 is more appropriate. *)* 21.Bh3 Bxh3 22.Rxh3 Timofeev,A (2567)-Bilych,O (2416) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Early blitz 2023 (10) 1-0]

16...Nb8 0.40/16
[16...h5= 0.00/15 should be considered.]

17.Rd1 -0.06/17
[17.h5± 0.40/16]

17...Ra6 0.44/15
[17...h5= -0.06/17]

18.Qg5 f6 0.63/21
[18...Nc6= 0.21/19 might be stronger.]

19.Qe3 White has more active pieces.

19...Be6 1.27/15
[19...f5± 0.47/20]

20.a3 0.53/17
[20.h5± 1.27/15]

20...Bxd5 1.27/18
[20...bxa3!± 0.53/17 21.Nxa3 *(21.Qxa3 f5±)* 21...Nc6]

21.Rxd5± Nd7 1.48/20 Black is weak on the light squares
[⌓21...f5 1.12/20]

22.h5 Nb6 2.31/18
[22...f5± 1.33/17]

23.Rd2
[23.hxg6 Nxd5 24.gxh7+ Kh8 25.cxd5 *(25.exd5 bxa3 26.Nxa3 f5∓)* 25...bxa3 26.bxa3 Qb6=]

23...Qc7 2.40/18
[23...d5± 1.59/18]

24.hxg6 1.31/18
[24.axb4 Nxc4 25.Qb3 a4∓]
[24.Bf1!+- 2.40/18 Hoping for c5. Ra7 25.h6 *(25.axb4 Rc8+-)*]

24...hxg6 25.Bf1 Black must now prevent c5.
[25.axb4?! Nxc4 26.Qb3 Rf7=]

25...Raa8 26.axb4 axb4 27.Qd3 0.75/19
[White should try 27.b3 1.26/17]

27...d5 1.83/15 **28.cxd5+-**
[28.Nxb4 Ra1+ 29.Ke2 dxe4 30.Qxe4 f5∓]

28...Qd6 2.23/19
[⌓28...f5 1.83/14 29.d6 *(29.Nxb4 fxe4 30.Qb1 Qc5±)* 29...Qc6 30.Qb3+ *(30.Nxb4 Qc1+ 31.Ke2 Qc4±)* 30...Rf7]

29.Bh3 Bh6 30.Re2 1.33/17
[30.Rd1+- 1.71/20]

30...Na4±

31.Ne3 0.86/14
[⌓31.Qf3! 1.42/17 Threatens to win with Bf5! Nc5 32.Bf5 Discovered Attack *(32.Nxb4? Ra1#)*]

31...Nc5

(Diagram)

32.Qb1 0.21/17
[32.Qd1!± 0.74/19]

32...Bxe3 0.65/17
[32...Nb3= 0.21/17 33.0-0 *(33.Be6+ Kg7∓)* 33...Ra1]

33.Rxe3± aiming for 0-0. **33...f5** Deflection **34.exf5 Qxd5?** 2.88/16

This move loses the game for Black.
[34...gxf5± 0.61/18 35.Qd1 *(35.Bxf5 Rxf5 36.Qxf5 Ra1+ 37.Kd2 Rxh1±)* 35...Kg7]
35.0-0+- gxf5 36.Bxf5 Rd1 is the strong threat. **36...Rad8 37.Bh3 Rf6** Prevents Qg6+. **38.Qe1 Nd3** 4.05/11
[⌓38...Qd2 2.55/15 39.Rxe5 Qxe1 40.Rfxe1 Nd3]
39.Qe2 Nc5? 7.14/12
[39...e4 3.85/13 40.Rxe4 Kf8]
40.Rxe5 White is clearly winning.
40...Qd4 41.Rg5+ Kf8 42.Qh5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.48.
Loses game: --- Black=1
Mistake: White=7 Black=13
Inaccurate: White=3 --- OK: White=6 Black=6
Best: White=4 ---
1-0

B33
□ **Magem Badals,J** **2487**
■ **Oms Fuentes,L** **2327**
XVI Magistral Open (8) 28.12.2006
[Andrew Martin,MH]

Now we come up to date with all the latest games. **1.e4** Andrew Martin **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 h6** You'll appreciate that this position can come about with a variety of move-orders. **7.f4**
Rather unusual and dangerous.
[7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 a6 9.dxc6 axb5 10.cxd7+ Bxd7 11.Bd3 Bc6 12.0-0 Bc5 13.Qg4 Qf6 14.Bd2 0-0 15.Bc3 Eggleston, D-Kvisla, J/Catalan Bay ENG 2007 should have seen Black maintaining equality with Rfe8=]
[7.Nd6+ Bxd6 8.Qxd6 Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Kxe7 10.Be3 d6 11.f3 Be6 12.a3 *(12.0-0-0 Rac8 13.Be2 Rhd8 14.Kb1 d5*= Doggers, P-Grosse Honebrink, B/Porto Mannu PAL 2007 *)* 12...a6 13.Be2 Rac8 14.0-0 Na5 *(14...d5* looks a little premature after *15.Bc5+)* 15.Rf2 Airapetian, C-Sarkar, J/Stillwater USA 2007 and now Rc6 16.Rd1 Rhc8 leads to a coherent position for Black.]
[7.Bc4 a6 *(7...d6 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Be3 a6 12.Na3 Nb4 13.Bb3 Be6 14.Qd2 d5)* 8.Nd6+ Bxd6 9.Qxd6 Qe7 10.Qxe7+ *(10.Qd3 d6 11.Be3 Be6 12.0-0-0 Rd8 13.Bb3 Nb4 14.Ba4+ b5 15.Bxb5+ Kf8 16.Qe2 axb5 17.Qxb5 Nxa2+ 18.Nxa2 Bxa2 19.b3 Nxe4 20.Qa5 Bxb3 21.cxb3 Kg8 22.Rd5 Kh7 23.Kb2 Nf6 24.Rb5 d5*-+ Thipsay, B-Agdestein, E/ Gibraltar 2006 *)* 10...Kxe7 11.Be3 d6

12.0-0-0 Be6 13.Nd5+ Bxd5 14.exd5 b5 15.Bb3 Na5 16.f3 Rhc8 17.g4 Nd7 18.h4 Nxb3+ 19.axb3 a5 20.Kb1 Ra6 21.Rhe1 Nb6± Karpov, A-Hug, W/Graz 1972]

7...a6

[Black cannot afford to play carelessly here: 7...d6 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.exd5 Nb8 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Qh5+- gives White an excellent attacking position: Bd6 12.Bd3 a6 13.0-0 Rf8 14.Nxd6+ Qxd6 15.Re1 Nd7 16.Bf4 g5 17.Bg3 Kd8 18.Bf5 f6 19.Qxh6 Kc7 20.Re3 Nc5 21.Qg7+ Kb6 22.Bf2 Bxf5 23.Rb3+ Ka5 24.Be1+ Ka4 25.Rb4+ Ka5 26.a4 Bd7 27.Rb5# 1-0 Huerga Leache, M-Larranaga Aldalur, J/ San Sebastian ESP 2007 A not to be repeated experience]

8.Nd6+ Bxd6 9.Qxd6 Qe7 10.fxe5

[10.Qxe7+ Kxe7 11.Bc4 Nd4 12.Bb3 d6 13.Be3 Nxb3 14.axb3 exf4 15.Bxf4 Be6=]

10...Nxe5 11.Qd4

[11.Qxe7+ is the usual ' nothing' for White. Kxe7 12.b3 d6 13.Ba3 Bg4 14.Bd3 b5 15.Nd1 Bxd1 16.Rxd1 Rhb8 17.Kd2 a5 18.Bb2 Nfd7 19.Bd4 Nc5 20.Rb1 b4 1/2-1/2 Keres, P-Drimer, D/ Luhacovice 1969]

11...d6 Black's reinforcement of the powerful central Knight once again gives him easy equality. **12.Bf4 Bg4 13.Bd3**

[13.h3 Bh5 sees the Bishop redeploying to g6 in order to pressurize e4]

13...0-0 14.0-0 Bd7 15.Be2

[15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Rfe8 18.Rf2 Rac8 19.c4 Qe4!=]

15...Rad8 Odd-looking, but he wants to play ...Bc6 and then ...d5 if possible.

16.Rad1 Bc6 17.a4 a5

[17...Rfe8!=]

18.b3 Rfe8 19.Rd2 Qe6 20.Nb5 Ned7

[It is very odd indeed that Black rejected 20...Nxe4 21.Rdd1 Qg6 which just seems to win material as far as I can see.]

21.Nc7 1.58/20

[Weaker is 21.Qxd6 Nxe4 22.Qxe6 Rxe6±]

[Not 21.Nxd6 Ne5±]

[Less strong is 21.Bxd6 Qxe4 22.Bd3 Qxd4+ 23.Nxd4 Ne4 *(23...Ne5? 24.Bxe5 Rxe5 25.Nxc6+-)* 24.Nxc6 Nxd2 25.Nxd8 *(25.Nxa5? Nxf1 26.Nxb7 Rb8-+)* 25...Nxf1±]

[21.Bc4+- 3.04/22 Qxe4 22.Bxf7+ Double Attack *(22.Qxd6? Ne5-+* Discovered Attack*; 22.Nxd6 Qxd4+ 23.Rxd4 Re7+-; 22.Bxd6 Ne5∓)* 22...Kh7 23.Bxe8 *(23.Bxd6 Qxd4+ 24.Nxd4 Ne4+-)*]

21...Qxe4± 22.Bf3 0.53/12

[22.Qxd6? Qxg2#]

[22.Qf2± 1.31/18]

22...Qxd4+± 23.Rxd4 Re7 24.Bxd6 Re3 25.Bf4 Rc3 1.27/10

[Better is 25...Re7!± 0.53/15]

(Diagram)

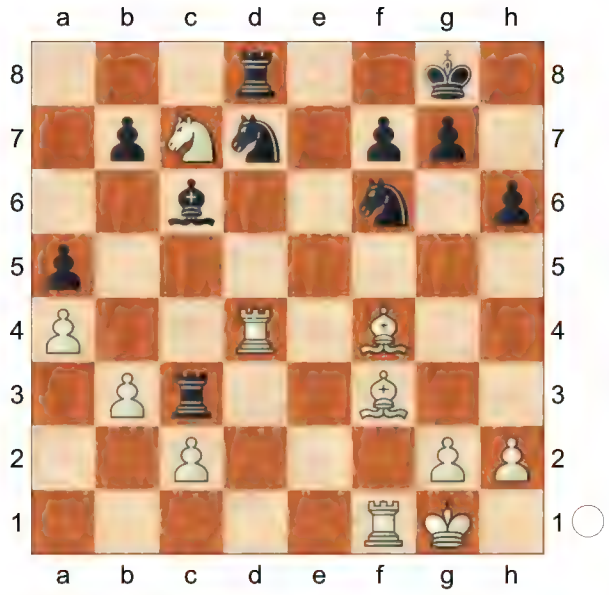
26.Bd1!± Rc8 27.Nb5 Bxb5 28.axb5 b6 1.77/23

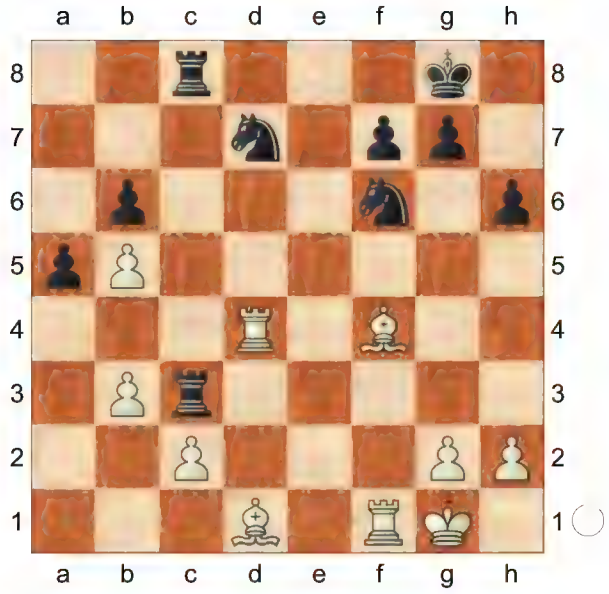
[28...Re8± 1.23/13 29.Bd2 Rc5]

(Diagram)

29.Bd2 1.31/22

[White should play 29.Re1!+- 1.77/23]





29...R3c5 30.c4 a4! 31.Rd6 0.59/20
[31.bxa4 Rxc4 32.Rxc4 Rxc4 33.a5 bxa5 34.Bxa5 Rc5 35.Be2 Nd5 36.Rd1 Ne5 should be rather better for White, but not necessarily easy to win.]
[31.bxa4± 1.36/12 aiming for Bb3. Rxc4 32.Rxc4 Rxc4 33.Bb3]
31...axb3!± 32.Bxb3 Re5 The devil is in the detail of the opening.
½-½

B33

□	**Donaldson,J**	**2450**
■	**Zlotnikov,M**	**2355**
ch-USA Seattle (6)		2002

[And Martin,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6!? Well, I have to admit that this is a new one on me. The pawn nearest the clock perhaps? **8.Na3 b5!? 9.Nd5!N** He must be threatening e4-e5 now! **9...Be7** So we come the crux of the matter. It turns out that ...a5-a4 wasn't totally vague instead Black targets the c pawn and makes it undesirable for White to play b2-b3. **10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3** One can see why he does this but I believe that **11...Bg5 12.Nc2 Rb8 13.a4 bxa4 14.Ncb4 Nxb4 15.cxb4 0-0** White has an edge. **16.Rxa4 a5 17.h4 Bh6 18.b5 Bd7 19.Nc3 d5** Inhibits Bc4. **20.exd5 Kh8**
[20...e4 0.91/25 20...f5 0.34
A) 21.Be2 0.29/25 21.Rxe4 0.93
A1) 21...e3 22.f4! g6 23.h5! Flesch-Rakic Belgrade 1965 Black is cramped. Threatens to win with hxg6. RR 23...Bg7 1.06/19 *(*Black should try *23...g5±* 0.49/18 *)* 24.h6!± Bh8 25.0-0 Re8 26.d6 Re6! 27.Qd5 Bc8 28.Rd1 Bb7 29.Qg5 0.21/18 *(29.Qc5±* 0.60/24 *Qh4 30.Rf1)* 29...Rxd6= 30.Qxd8+ Rdxd8 31.Rxd8+ Rxd8 32.Rxa5 Bd4 Wards off Ra7 33.Kf1;
A2) 21...Re8 22.Rxe4 Rxe4 23.Nxe4 Qe8! 24.Nc3 Bxb5 25.Nxb5 0.02/18 *(25.0-0!±* 0.43/25 *Bxe2 26.Nxe2)*

25...Rxb5= 0-1 Luchtmeijer, A-Halpin, P/Sydney 1995 26.Qa4 was an attempt to justify the move order which didn't altogether succeed Rb8! 27.Qxe8+ Rxe8 28.Rh3 Bf4 29.b3 Bd6;

B) 21.Rxe4 f5 22.Rd4! Re8+ 23.Be2 Rxb5 24.Nxb5 0.25/16 *(24.0-0±* 0.74/21 *Rxb2 25.d6)* 24...Bxb5= 25.Rd3! Bxd3 26.Qxd3 Bf4 27.g3 *(27.Kf1 Qf6 28.g3)* 27...Bd6! 28.Kf1 *(28.Qxf5!* 0.00/22 28.Kf1 0.48 best *Qc7 29.Kf1 Bxg3! 30.Rh3±* RR *30...Rf8 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Qe3* Against Qc1+ *Bd6 33.Rf3 Rxf3 34.Bxf3* Threatening mate with Qe8+. *g6 35.h5 Qc4+ 36.Kg2 Qf4 37.Qc3+ Be5 38.Qxa5 Qg5+ 39.Kf1 Qc1+ 40.Qe1 Qxb2)* 28...Qf6 29.b3 Qb2 30.h5 Probably Donaldson was fed up after this one. You are nurturing a small advantage and then, most unfairly, the guy gets counterplay out of nowhere! 7...a5!? - I can't really believe it although to prove a definite advantage isn't so easy. Perhaps taking on d5 with the c pawn, as indicated, and then motoring down the centre is correct. f4 31.g4 h6 32.Qc4 And now Bf3 would win. Rb8∞ 0.64/21 *(32...Qb1+=* 0.15/20 might be stronger. *33.Kg2 Qe4+ 34.Qxe4 Rxe4)* 33.Kg2 Rxb3 34.Qc8+ Bf8! 35.Qe6+∓ Kh8 36.d6 0.04/19 *(*Better is *36.Bf3±* 0.72/23 *Qc3 37.Qe4)* 36...Re3!= 37.Qc8! Perhaps 37...Qxe2 38.Qxf8+ Kh7 39.Qxf4 Re4! 40.Qf5+ Kg8 41.Kg3 Rc1! would now be deadly. Qd3+∞ 42.Kh4! was very strong. White ploughs on with e4-e5 e.g. Rd4! 43.Qc8+ Kh7 44.Re1± White wants to mate with Re8. Qf3! 45.Qc2+ Qd3! 46.Qxd3+ Rxd3]

21.Be2± White is still a little better but it's a different type of advantage to the one that went before. Donaldson has to grind out the point and it will not be at all easy. Where are Black's weaknesses? Well, White would like to create a passed d pawn with c4-c5 or he could consider trying to round up the pawn at a4. But Black is active, the pawn on c4 isn't totally secure and the square f3 beckons a Black Knight if White gets frisky. I think I've talked myself into thinking that Black is almost equal. **21...f5! 22.g3 Qb6 23.0-0 Rf6N**

[23...Rbd8 24.Kg2

A) 24...Bc8 1.64/19 24...g5 0.63 Allowing an exchange of Knights permitted considerable counterplay e.g. 25.Rc4! *(25.f4 Rfe8 26.fxe5 Rxe5 27.Qd4 Qf6* Anand,V (2804)-Grischuk,A (2781) 125/(46) Stavanger 2015 *)* 25...Bb7 26.Rc6 Bxc6 27.bxc6

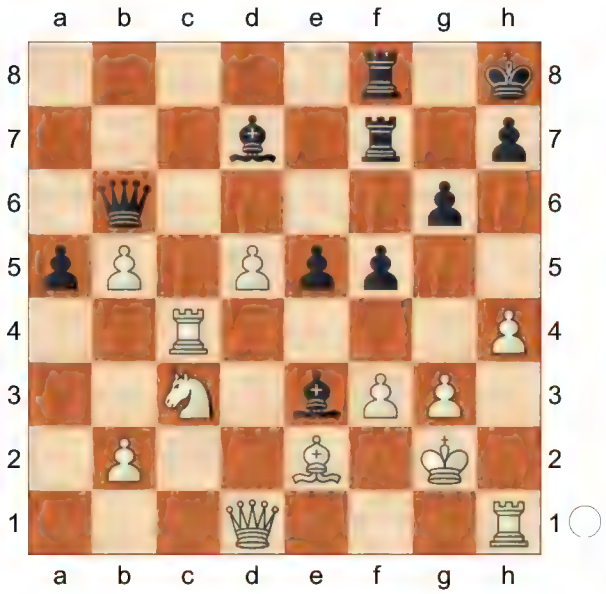
A1) 27...g5 2.50/22 27...e4 1.72 28.hxg5 Bxg5 29.Bc4?!⊕ 1.27/20 The check on c4 was better, winning material e.g. *(29.Qd3+-* 1.72/20 *)*;

A2) 27...Qxb2 28.Nb5 Rb8 3.36/17 *(⌓28...f4* 2.10/17 *)* 29.d6+- Rxb5 30.d7! Rbb8 White must now prevent ...Bd2. 31.Qd6! c7 is the strong threat. Qb6 32.Rd1! Against Bd2;

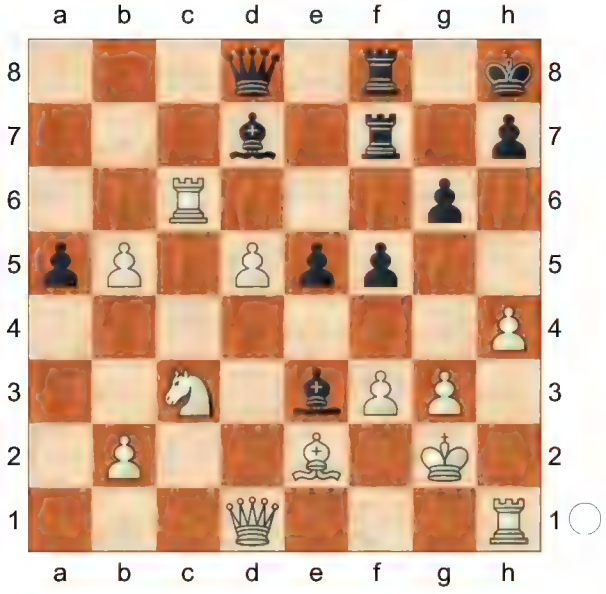
A3) 27...e4 28.Nb5 aiming for c7. Qc5 3.10/21 *(28...f4* 2.00/23 was worth a try. *29.Bc4 fxg3 30.fxg3 g5)* 29.Nc7!+-

Hoping for Ne6. f4 Strongly threatening ...f3+. 30.Bg4;

B) 24...g6 25.Rh1 Rf7 26.Rc4! Rdf8 27.f3⇄ Zlotnikov gives an object lesson in the art of reducing a small disadvantage by active play. Unworried, White would find a way of getting the d pawn through but his King is a little bit open. Be3 1.36/19 *(27...g5± 0.65/18)*



28.Rc6!± Qd8



29.Bc4!]

24.Kg2 Rbf8=

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless) .
OK: White=8
Black=8
Best: White=1 ---
Strong: ---
Black=1 . Loss on time!?
0-1

B33

□ **Alvarez,Roberto Gabriel** **2527**
■ **Florea,Mihail** **2198**
Tsvetkov Memorial KO 1 (1) 17.10.2005
[Alvarez,Roberto G, MH]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 In this game I preferred to avoid the Nimzoindian (3.♘c3 ♗b4), but the early development of the knight to f3 has also its drawbacks (one of them is you cannot choose the best lines of the Exchange Variation in the Queen's Gambit Declined). **3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3!?** I usually play the common 5.♗g5, but since it is very studied and with many long-lines, I preferred the development of the bishop at f4 (maybe I was influenced by Peter Leko's nice win against Vlad Kramnik at the Brissago 2004 Classic World Chess Championship...)
Anyway, the line is well playable. If you want to study this line, look at the games of Dreev, Epishin, Golod, all GMs who usually play it. **5...e5 6.Ndb5 d6** The natural reaction. **7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3** This exchange leads to a position with an isolated queen pawn. Usually, when having an IQP, you should avoid the exchange of pieces (because the isolated pawn provides central support for your pieces and you should aim for dynamic play, and in the ending that

IQP would prove to be an important weakness). **8...b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5** Preventing an unpleasant check at b4. **10...f5 11.Bd3 Be6?** I was really surprised when I saw my opponent played this move. An oversight? Usually Black retires the bishop (to b6 or e7), and this is because White is threatening to win material by ♗xh7+ and ♕c2+ (the bishop at c5 is unprotected!). **12.0-0 Bg7 13.Qh5 f4 14.c4 bxc4 15.Bxc4N** A novelty what should not exchange the evaluation of the line. White is of course better. My intention was to preserve knights since the heavy pieces would be probably exchanged on the open files. **15...0-0!?** Pointing to the weak light squares. **16.Rac1 Rb8**

[16...f5 17.Nb4 Bxc4 18.Nxc6 Bf7 19.Qxf5]

[16...Nd4]

17.b3

[17.Bxa6 Nd4 18.Rb1 f5 19.Bd3]

17...Qd7 18.Rfd1 Kh8 White is a pawn ahead but the presence of opposite colour bishops is a sort of compensation (of course, Black is aiming to a draw as a best and lucky result...)

[18...Bg4 19.Qg5]

19.Qh4

[19.h3?!]

19...Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Nd4

[20...Nb4 21.Rc3 Nxa2 22.Rh3 h6 23.Nc4 Rfc8 24.g4 Nb4 25.Qg5]

[20...Nb4 with good prospects for a win.]

21.Rc4

[21.Kf1 f5 *(21...Rfc8? 22.Qh3 Ne6 23.Rxc8++- Rxc8 24.Nc4 Re8 25.Bxe6 Rxe6 26.Qd3 Bf8 27.Qd5 Qe7 28.Qa8 Kg7 29.Qb8 Rg6 30.f3 Qg5 31.Rd2 f5 32.Qc7+ Kg8 33.Qc8 fxe4 34.Nxd6 Qh6 35.Qc4+ Re6 36.Nxe4+- Kh8 37.Ng5; 21...f3)* 22.Nc2 Nxc2 23.Rxc2 Rbc8 24.Re2 f3 25.gxf3 f4 26.Bc4 Rc6 27.Qg4 Qd8 28.Rc2 a5 29.Rdc1 Qe7 30.Bd5 Rc5 31.Rxc5 dxc5 32.Qe6 Qa7 33.Qc6 Bf6 34.Qxc5 Qxc5 35.Rxc5 Bd8 36.Bc6 Rf6 37.Rxe5 Bb6 38.Bd5 Rh6 39.Rg5 Rg6 40.Rf5 Rh6 41.e5+-]

[21.Bc4 f5 22.Qh3 Qe7 23.Nc2 fxe4 24.Re1 Qb7+- 25.Nxd4!? exd4 26.Qe6 e3 27.Bd3 Rf6 28.Qg4+- Rg8+- 29.f3 Bf8 30.Qh4 Qg7 31.Re2 d5+-]

21...Rbc8

[21...f5 22.Nc2

A) 22...fxe4 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Bxe4 Be5 *(24...Bf6 25.Qxf4 d5 26.Bf5; 24...h6+- 25.Rcxd4 Bxd4 26.Qxh6+ Kg8 27.Bd5+)* 25.Bf3 *(25.Qh5 Qf7 26.Qxf7 Rxf7+- 27.Rdc1 Re7 28.Kf1 a5 29.Rc8+ Rxc8 30.Rxc8+ Kg7+- 31.Ke2 f3+ 32.Kxf3 Rf7+ 33.Ke2 Bxh2 34.Ra8 Bg1 35.f3 Rc7 36.Rxa5 Be3 37.Rd5 Rc1+- 38.Rxd6 Ra1 39.a4 Ra2+ 40.Kd3 Rxg2 41.a5)* 25...Qd8 26.Qxd8 Rfxd8 27.Rdc1 Rb5 28.Be2 Rc5+- 29.b4 Rxc4 30.Rxc4 Rb8 31.a3 Rb6 32.Bd3 h6 33.Rc7 Kg8 34.Kf1 Kf8 35.Ke2= d5 36.Rc5 Rd6 37.Ra5 Ke7 38.Rxa6 Rxa6 39.Bxa6= Kd6 40.Kd3 Kc6 41.Kc2 Bf6 42.Bd3+- Be7 43.Kb3 Kb6 44.a4 Kc6 45.a5 Bd8 46.Ka4 Bc7 47.Bg6;

B) 22...Nxc2 23.Rxc2 Rbc8 24.Rcd2 Rf6 25.Qh3= Rc7 *(25...Rd8 26.exf5 Qxf5 27.Qxf5 Rxf5 28.Be4 Rf6 29.Rc2 d5 30.Rxd5 Rxd5 31.Bxd5 Bf8 32.Rc8 Kg7 33.Rc7+ Kh6 34.Be4*

Bg7 35.Kf1+- Rd6 36.Ke2 Rb6 37.h4 a5 38.g4!= fxg3 39.fxg3 Rb4 40.Kf3 a4 41.bxa4 Rxa4 42.Rc6+ Kh5 43.Bxh7 Ra3+ 44.Kg2 Rxa2+ 45.Kh3 Ra8 46.g4#) 26.exf5 Qxf5 27.Qxf5 Rxf5 28.Be6 Rf8 29.Rxd6 a5 30.f3 Rc3 31.a4+- Bf6 32.R6d5 Ra8 33.Rd7 Rac8 34.Bf5 Rc1 35.Rxh7+ Kg8 36.Rhd7 Be7± 37.Be6+ Kf8 38.Bc4 Rxd1+ 39.Rxd1 Bb4 40.Rd7 Be7 41.Kf1 Rc6 42.Ra7 Bb4 43.Rf7+ Ke8 44.Rf5 Rc5 45.h4 Bc3 46.h5 Ke7 47.h6 Rc6 48.Rh5 Rc8 49.h7;

C) 22...Nxc2;

D) 22...Rbc8 23.Nxd4 exd4 24.Qxf4 fxe4 25.Rxc8 Qxc8 26.Qxe4 Re8= 2.95/22 *(26...Qf5* 2.10/21 might work better. *27.Qxf5 Rxf5)* 27.Qd3+- Qc3 28.Bc4 a5 29.g3?! Re5 30.Kg2 Re8 31.Qf5 Rf8 32.Qe4 d5 33.Qxd5 Qc2! 34.Rf1 Qxa2 35.b4]

[21...Rg8 22.Qh5 Bf6= 23.g3 Rbf8 24.Nc2 Rg5! 25.Qh6 Bg7!]

[21...f3 22.Nc2 Ne2+ 23.Kf1 Nf4 24.gxf3]

22.f3 0.62/23

[22.Qh5 f3 1.52/24 *(⌓22...f5* 1.16/21 *23.exf5 Rce8)*]

[22.Rxc8 Qxc8 23.Nc4

A) 23...f3 1.38/23 23...f5 0.88 24.g4 0.73/22 *(⌓24.g3* 1.38/23) 24...Qc7 1.54/22 *(⌓24...Qd8* 0.73/22 *25.Qxd8 Rxd8 26.Bxf7 Bf8)* 25.Rxd4? -0.22/15 *(25.Ne3!±* 1.54/22) 25...exd4= 26.Qh3 Qe7 Hoping for ...Qf6. 27.Qxf3 Be5 28.Qf5 Qh4 29.Nxe5 dxe5 30.Qxe5+ Kg8!? 31.Qg3! Qe7 32.Qf4 Rc8 33.Bc4 Rc5 34.Kf1 Kg7 35.Ke2 f6 36.Kd3 Re5 37.f3+- Qa3 38.g5 Rxg5 39.h4 Re5 40.Qg4+ Kh6 And now ...Qc1 would win. 41.Qf4+ Kg7 42.Qg4+ Kh6;

B) 23...f5 24.Nxd6 Qd7 25.Nc4 -0.01/20 *(*White should try *25.Nxf5!±* 0.57/30 *Rxf5 26.exf5 Qxd5 27.Kh1)* 25...fxe4= 26.Rxd4!+- exd4 27.Bxe4 Bf6 28.Qxf4 d3 aiming for ...Bg7. 29.Kf1 -1.62/23 *(29.Qh6∓* -0.34/21 *Qe7 30.Bxd3)* 29...Qd4-+ (-> ...Qa1+) 30.g3? -4.08/25 *(30.Qe3* -1.62/21 *Qa1+ 31.Qe1)* 30...d2]

[22.Qh5± 1.22/23]

22...f5± 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Nc4!? Rf6 25.Kh1 Qc5 26.Qe1 fxe4! 27.Bxe4 Rf7 1.34/23

[27...d5 28.Nxe5 Black must now prevent Nd7. dxe4 29.Nd7 Qc2 Strongly threatening ...exf3! 30.Rc1 0.00/24 *(*Better is *30.Nxf6±* 0.69/27 *Bxf6 31.Rc1)*]

[Black should play 27...d5± 0.63/22 28.Nxe5 dxe4]

28.Rc1± The rooks are over and now comes a difficult ending where White should try to get a passed pawn on the kingside, also avoiding the exchange of knights since the opposite colour bishops gives Black good drawing prospects. **28...Bf8 29.Nb2 Qb5** 1.76/22

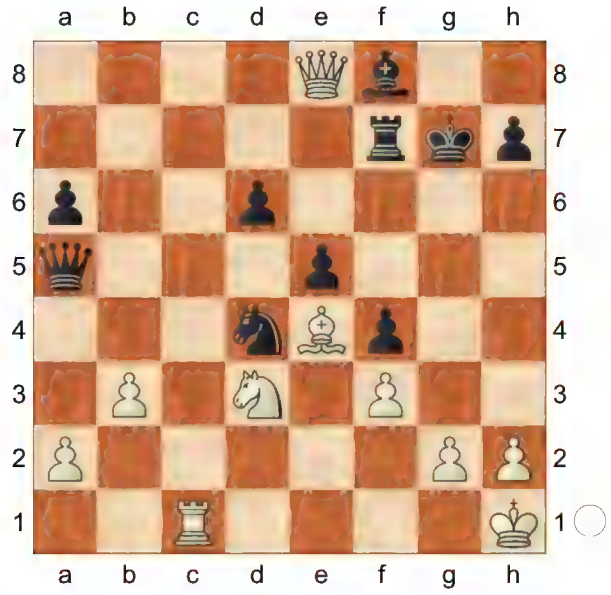
[29...Qa3+- 3.30/21 29...Qb6 1.25 30.Bd5]

[29...Qa7± 1.23/24 30.Nd1 Nf5]

30.Nd3+- Nf5 31.Qc3 1.78/18

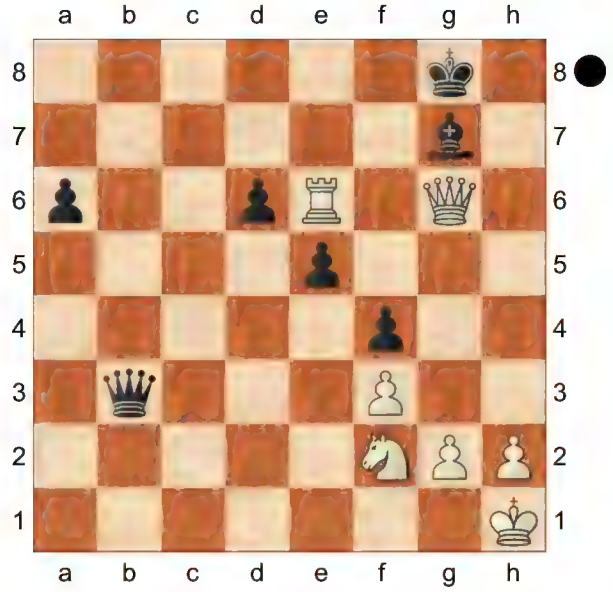
This repetion should appear somewhat unexplainable in correspondence chess, but this game was played at a "rapid" pace, with 20 days for the whole game plus an extra day each move...

Remember one of the advices for playing endings: Don't hurry!
[31.Bxf5± 1.27/18 Rxf5 32.Qe4]
31...Nd4 2.69/20
[⌓31...Qd7 1.78/18 32.Nxf4 Nd4]
32.Qc8+- Qa5 33.Qe8 1.61/22
[⌓33.a4 3.06/22]
33...Kg7+-



34.Bxh7 0.81/19
[34.Qc8!+- 1.95/19 has better winning chances.]
34...Qxa2? 4.40/21
[34...Qb5± 0.81/19 is tougher. 35.Qxb5 axb5]
35.Be4+- Qa5 36.Qc8 The black pawn is fixed at g5 where it can be attacked twice (by knight and bishop). **36...Kf6!?**
[36...Qd2 37.Qg4+ Kf6 38.Qh4+ Ke6 39.Qd8]
37.Nf2 Kg7 38.Qg4+ Kf6
[38...Kh8 39.Qh5+ Kg8 40.Ng4 and White wins. Nf5 41.Qg6+ Kh8 *(41...Bg7 42.Rc8+ Qd8 43.Rxd8+ Rf8± 44.Nf6+?! Kh8 45.Qh7#)* 42.Qxf7 Qd8 43.Bxf5 Qe7 44.Qh5+ Kg8 45.Nf6++- Kg7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Qg8#]
39.Bd5 The pawns should limit the action of the opponent's Bishop.
39...Rc7 40.Qh4+
[40.Qh4+ Kg6± The knight shall return as fast as possible, because if not Black could try to take advantage of its lack of space.... *(40...Kg7!? 41.Qg5+ Kh7!? 42.Qg8+!? Kh6!? 43.Qxf8+* Black is preventing the advance of my pawns winning "tempos" with check. *Kh5!? 44.Bf7+! Rxf7!?* A difficult move, since I should evaluate the ending with bishop plus 2 connected passed pawns against a knight and a remoted passed pawn. There are some positions where the knight draws (fortress), specially if you are forced to put your pawns on squares of the same colour of your bishop.
The advantage of the text move is that, being Black unable to exchange on f3, his bishop is badly placed at h1 and White can push his connected passed pawns. *45.Qxf7+!* I saw this possibility long before (when analyzing the endgame at move 49... but there is a hidden surprise for Black... *Kh6!?* The bishop escapes, controlling important squares as f4 and d4-c5 (if the bishop were at b2 - with the black king on a light square- then Black should have good drawing prospects) *46.Ng4+??* A decisive mistake. My idea was to prevent the advance of the black pawn at the time I could be ready to push my own pawns on the kingside.
Black should have tried 55...♘b4 or the most difficult to find 55...♔g8!? (quitting the king from the dangerous diagonal).
Being sincere, I am not sure if White wins this ending... but surely the

defense is DIFFICULT and the winning prospects still high for a telechess game. *Kg5!* Surprise!! Now the black knight is attacked and.. it cannot escape, since there is a decisive pin on the a1-h8 diagonal. *47.Qf6+ Kh5!* The knight is lost since Black is unable to prevent the approach of the white king. *48.Qh6#)* 41.Be4+!? Kf7 42.Qh7+ Bg7 43.Qg6+ Kg8 44.Bd5+?! Black was playing very well, and this move indeed came as a surprise, since it loses the g5-pawn by force (although Black is able to capture the white pawn at b4 later). Qxd5 45.Rxc7 Ne6 46.Re7 Qxb3 47.Rxe6!!



At first glance I think "what a stupid mistake", I would pin the knight and the ending with two passed pawns should be a win no matter of the bishops of opposite colour". But not: the endgame with only bishop is a draw! (it was really interesting to analyze the endgame since I learned a lot. Look at the supplementary games in this article to see how some grandmasters missed a draw!)

If my opponent saw this, then he deserves my congratulations for his creative mistake with ...♗h1! Qb5!? In playing this move I invested a lot of analysis. Of course, the pawn at b4 is lost after....♘c6. My intention was not to decide the posting of my bishop yet, and besides, the king is more closer to black pawn. 48.Re8+!? Qxe8! 49.Qxe8+]

1-0

B33

□ **Carlsen,Magnus**
■ **Salem,AR Saleh**
1: Internet (blitz) 2017
[Andrew Martin,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Not quite a London System and not quite a Veresov. Something in between. Does the position of the knight on c3 hinder or help the White cause? Back in the 1980s I remember that everyone had a hard time accepting that this idea could give Black problems, but the results were fantastic for White. --- In this brief introduction, we will note that even Magnus Carlsen has been tempted to play this unusual opening. **4...Nf6 5.Nc3** We can call this the main line move, although 5 Nb5 is catching up and may well surpass 5 e3 as White's best try before very long. **5...e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7** Black has chosen a solid and rather unambitious approach. This is a blitz game, and he is playing Magnus, but we will learn that an aggressive attitude is important if Black wants to counter the Barry

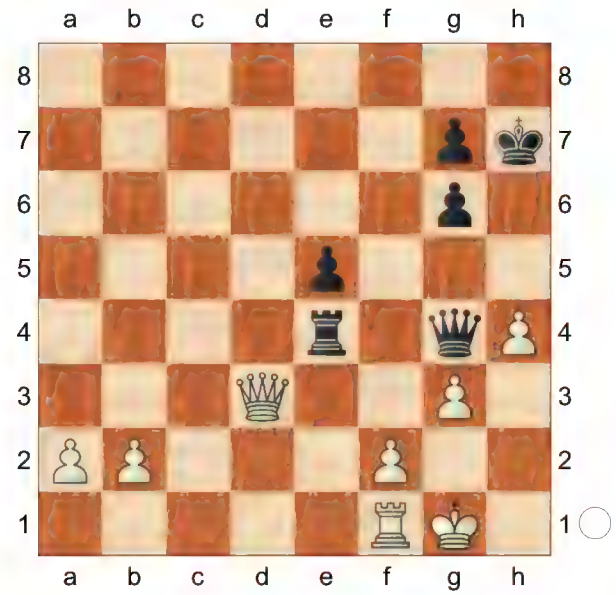
successfully. **9.c4! Ng6**
[9...Nf5]
[9...a6 10.Qa4]
10.Qa4 This is a throwback to the 1980s, where there was a queue of black players around the block waiting to be mated by White's crude kingside pawn advance. **10...Bd7 11.Qb4 Qb8 12.h4 h5**
[12...a6 1.02/12 12...h5 0.59 13.h5! axb5 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.cxb5]
13.Be3 Even though White has set up what looks like an ideal attacking platform, it is still not so easy to break through.
[13.Bd3 0.12/13 13.Be3 0.61 a6 14.Nc3! f5 15.Be3 Be7 16.Na4 -0.35/11 *(16.0-0-0=* 0.06/10 deserves consideration. *)* 16...Nxh4∓ 17.Rxh4 *(17.Nb6* -1.11/11 17.Rh2 -0.33 *Nxg2+ 18.Kd2* Nxd7 is the strong threat. *Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qd8* And now ...a5 would win. *20.Nxa8 Qxa8)* 17...Bxh4 18.Nb6 a5 19.Qb3 Qd8 20.Nxa8 Qxa8]
13...b6 White is slightly better.
[13...Be7 0.96/20 13...a6 0.44 14.c5! dxc5 15.Bxc5 a6 ...Bxc5 would now be deadly. 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Ne4]
[13...a6 14.Nc3 a5 *(14...f5 15.Na4)* 15.Qb3 a4 16.Qd1 Be7 17.g3 Qc8 18.Be2 Bg4 19.Rc1 *(19.Bxg4 hxg4 20.c5)* 19...Bxe2 20.Qxe2]
14.Be2 White has more active pieces.
14...Be7 15.g3 a6 16.Nc3 b5! Inhibits Na4. **17.cxb5 axb5 18.0-0**
[18.Bxb5 0.14/8 18.Nxb5 0.68 0-0 19.0-0 Bh3]
[18.Nxb5 0-0 19.a4 f5!]
18...0-0N Salem's first lively move of the game.
[18...f5 19.a3 0-0 20.Bxh5 Nxh4 21.gxh4 f4 22.Bd2 Qd8 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7-Overview 2022]
19.Bxh5! Carlsen finds a way to keep the pressure on.
[19.Bxb5 Bh3=]
19...Bd8 20.Ne4! Bf5 21.Nxd6 Be7 22.Bc5 Bh3 2.33/21
[22...Ra4 23.Nxf5 Rxb4 24.Nxe7+ Nxe7 25.Bxb4]
[22...Ra4± 1.19/21 23.Nxf5 Discovered Attack Rxb4 24.Nxe7+ Nxe7 25.Bxb4 Qa7]
23.Bxg6? 0.49/13
[23.Rfc1! Ra4 3.69/10 *(⌓23...Qd8* 2.26/17 *24.Bxg6 fxg6)* 24.Qxb5+- Bxd6 25.Qxa4]
[White should try 23.Rfc1!+- 2.33/21]
23...fxg6 1.15/22
[Better is 23...Ra4± 0.49/13 24.Nf5 *(24.Qxb5 Qxb5* Remove Defender *25.Nxb5 Bxc5+-)* 24...Bxf5]

24.Ne4!± Bxc5 25.Qxc5 0.69/20
[25.Nxc5± 1.19/13 aiming for Ne6! Qd6 *(25...Bxf1 26.Nd7=* Discovered Attack, Deflection, Double Attack *)* 26.Rfd1]
25...Bxf1± 26.Rxf1 Black is on the road

to losing. **26...Qc8?** 2.65/25
[26...Qb7± 0.88/17]

27.Qxb5! 1.14/13
[27.d6!+- 2.65/25 Hoping for Qd5+. Qxc5 28.Nxc5 Rxa2 29.d7]
27...Qg4? 3.69/21
[27...Qc2± 1.14/13 was necessary. 28.Ng5 Rfb8]
28.Qc4 2.05/13
[⌓28.Qd3 3.69/21]
28...Rf4? 4.54/12
[28...Qc8 2.05/13 was worth a try. 29.Qd3 Qa6 30.Qxa6 Rxa6]
29.d6++- Kh8 30.Qd5 Raf8 31.d7 Threatening Rxd7. **31...Rxe4**
[31...Rd8? 5.00/8 31...Rxe4 2.95 . but 32.Ng5!]
32.d8Q
[32.d8B Rxf2 *(32...Rd4? 33.Qxe5 Rfxd8 34.a4-+)* 33.Qd3 Rd4 *(33...Rxb2? 34.h5-+)* 34.Qe3 Rxf1+ *(34...Rxb2? 35.Bf6-+)* 35.Kxf1 Qd1+ *(35...Rxd8? 36.Kg2-+)* 36.Qe1 Qf3+ *(36...Rxd8? 37.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 38.Ke2-+)* 37.Kg1 Rxd8 *(37...Rd1? 38.Ba5-+)* 38.b4 e4 *(38...Rd1 39.Qxd1 Qxd1+ 40.Kg2 e4 41.b5 Qf3+ 42.Kh2 e3 43.b6 e2 44.b7 Qxb7 45.Kh3 e1Q 46.a4 Qf1+ 47.Kh2 Qfh1#)* 39.h5 Rd5 *(39...gxh5 40.b5 e3 41.Qf1 Rd1 42.Qxd1 Qxd1+ 43.Kg2 e2 44.Kh2 e1Q 45.Kg2 Qh1+ 46.Kf2 Qhg1#; 39...Rd1 40.Qxd1 Qxd1+ 41.Kf2 Qd2+ 42.Kg1 e3 43.h6 Qf2+ 44.Kh1 e2 45.hxg7+ Kxg7 46.g4 e1Q#)* 40.g4 Qxg4+ *(40...gxh5 41.Qc1 hxg4 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Qc2 Qg3+ 44.Kf1 Rf5+ 45.Ke2 Rf2+* Skewer *46.Ke1 Qg1#)* 41.Kf2 Qf3+ *(41...Qxh5 42.Qxe4 Rd2+ 43.Kg3 Qh2+ 44.Kf3 Qf2+ 45.Kg4 Rd4 46.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 47.Kg3 g5 48.Kf3 g4+ 49.Ke2 g3 50.Kf3 Qf2+ 51.Ke4 g2 52.b5 g1Q 53.Kd5 Qf5+ 54.Kc6 Qgc5+ 55.Kb7 Qfc8#)* 42.Kg1 Rg5+ *(42...Qxh5 43.Qxe4 Rd1+ 44.Kf2 Qh2+ 45.Kf3 Rf1+ 46.Ke3 Re1+ 47.Kd4 Qd6+ 48.Qd5 Rd1+* Skewer, Deflection *49.Kc3 Qxd5 50.b5 Qc5+ 51.Kb2 Qb4+ 52.Kc2 Rd2+* Skewer *53.Kc1 Qb2#; 42...Qxh5 43.Qxe4 Rd1+ 44.Kf2 Qh2+ 45.Kf3 Rf1+ 46.Ke3 Re1+ 47.Kd4 Qd6+ 48.Qd5 Rd1+* Skewer *49.Kc3 Qxd5 50.b5 Qc5+ 51.Kb2 Qb4+ 52.Kc2 Rd2+* Skewer *53.Kc1 Qb2#)*]
[32.d8R Rxd8 33.Qxd8+ Kh7+-]
32...Rxd8 33.Qxd8+ Endgame. KQR-KQR **33...Kh7 34.Qd1** . If the Barry can be called an attack, then the blueprint for success is contained within this game. Quick development followed by a kingside pawn storm would appear to be the way. --- Naturally, we are going to find that life is not that simple. Gone are the days when the kingside attack automatically crashes through. **34...Qf5** would not persuade White to exchange

queens and after **35.Qd3 Qg4**



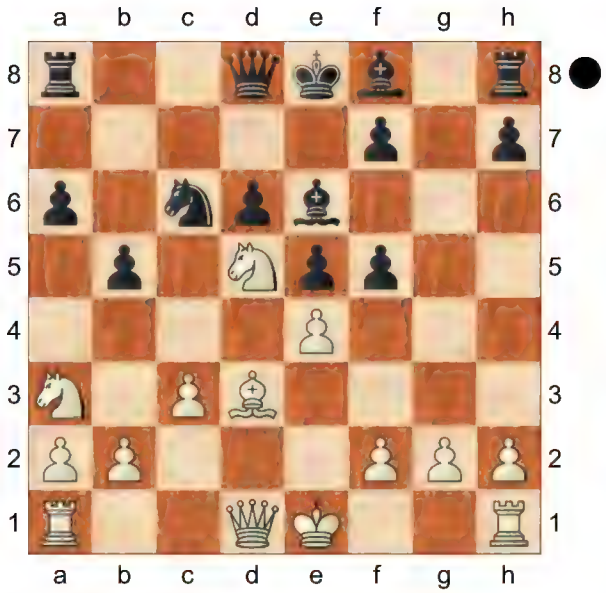
36.h5! Kh6
[36...gxh5 6.94/10 36...Ra4 4.40 37.Re1]
[36...Qxh5! 9.93/22 36...Rb4 4.27 . This would be the point, intending 37.Qxe4]
[36...Ra4 37.Re1]
37.Qd2+
[But not 37.hxg6 Re2 38.a4 Rxb2 39.Qe3+ Kxg6 40.Qxe5 Re2 41.Qd6+ Re6 42.Qd3+ Qf5 43.Qxf5+ Kxf5]
37...g5 8.96/18
[⌓37...Qg5 4.04/16 38.Qxg5+ Kxg5 39.hxg6 Kxg6]
38.Qd6+ he maintains the advantage. White is clearly winning. **38...Kxh5** was an alternative try, but tough decisions are having to be made at speed: **39.Kg2 Qf5 40.Rh1+ Rh4 41.Qd1+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.46.
Loses game: ---
Black=2
Missed win: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=3
Black=4
Inaccurate: ---
Black=1
OK: White=12
Black=7
Best: White=3
Black=2
Strong: White=1
Black=1
[41.gxh4 Qg4+ 42.Kf1 Qc4+ 43.Ke1 Qe4+ 44.Kd2 Qxh1 45.Qxe5 Kxh4=]
1-0

B33

□ **Sicilian Defense,Chopin**
■ **Sveshnikov Variation,With Bd3**
436 Linz 16.09.2014
[Bojan Vuckovic,MH]

Current Reputation: Playable for both sides **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3**

Be6 12.0-0 [Chapter]
[12.c3 [Chapter]



A) 12...Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.Nxb5 Bg7 15.Na3

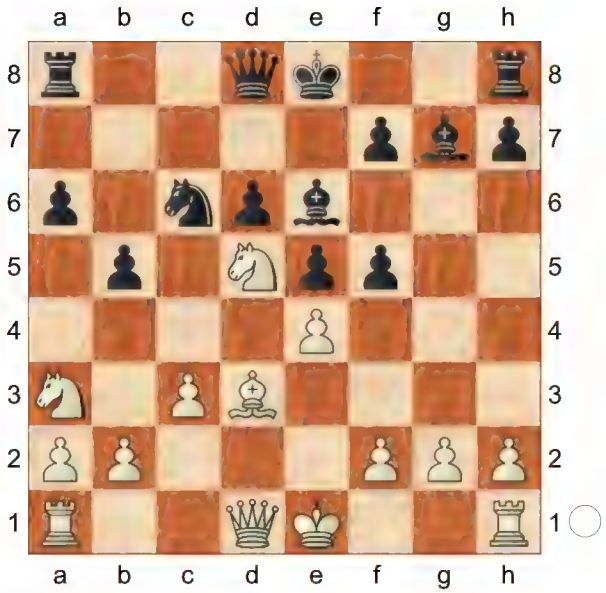
A1) 15...e4 16.Be2 *(16.Bc2 0-0 17.0-0± -* 15... O-O 16. O-O e4 17. Bc2 *)* 16...0-0 17.0-0± - 15... O-O 16. O-O e4 17. Be2;

A2) 15...0-0 16.0-0 e4 17.Be2 *(17.Bc2 Qb6 18.Rb1 Qc5 19.Bb3 f4 20.Qg4 Ng6 21.Qf5 Rfe8 22.Nc4 a5 23.a4 Rab8 24.Ba2 e3 25.fxe3 fxe3 26.Rbe1±* J. Bokar - S. Kerr, corr. 2004 *)* 17...Ng6 18.Nc4 f4 (S. Algaba - K. Terrieux, Fouesnant 2009) *(18...Rb8 19.f4 exf3 20.Rxf3 f4 21.Kh1 Qg5 22.Qd2±* S. Azarov - A. Mista, Warsaw (rapid) 2011 *)* 19.Qc2 f5 20.f3 e3 21.Kh1 Ne5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.a4± Black has insufficient compensation for material deficit.;

B) 12...Bg7

B1) [Chapter]

(Diagram)



13.Qh5 0-0

B1a) 14.exf5 Bxd5 15.f6 e4 *(15...h6 16.fxg7 Kxg7 17.Nc2 Be6 18.Ne3 d5 19.h4 Qf6 20.Bf5 Bxf5 21.Nxf5+ Kh7 22.Rd1 Rad8=* V. Anand - V. Ivanchuk, Linares 2002 *)* 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Be2 Re5 18.Qh6 b4 19.Nc2 *(19.Nc4 Bxc4 20.Bxc4 bxc3 21.bxc3 Qg5 22.Qxd6 Rd8 23.Qxc6 Re6 24.Bxe6 Qd2+ 25.Kf1 Qd3+* (1/2-1/2 A. Naiditsch - V. Chuchelov, Belgium 2003) *26.Ke1 Qd2+=)* 19...bxc3 20.bxc3 Qg5 21.Qxg5 Rxg5 22.0-0 Be6 23.Rfd1 Rc5 24.Rxd6 Rxc3 25.Ne3 Nb4 26.a4 Nc2 27.Nxc2= 1/2-1/2 V. Anand - L. Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2003;

B1b) 14.0-0

B1b1) 14...fxe4 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Nf4 exf4 17.Bxc6 Rc8

B1b11) 18.Qe2

B1b111) 18...Be5 19.Qf3 b4 20.cxb4

Bxb2 21.Bd5 *(21.Rad1 Kh8 22.Bd5 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Qc7 24.Rd3 Rg8 25.b5 Qc5 26.Qxc5 Rxc5 27.bxa6 Ra8=* 1/2-1/2 D. Szczepankiewicz - G. Poli, corr. 2007 *)* 21...Qf6 22.Rad1 Rc3 23.Rd3 Bxd5 24.Qxd5+ Qf7 25.Qf3 Rfc8 26.Nb1 Rc1 27.Nd2 Rxf1+ 28.Nxf1 Be5= V. Kramnik - L. Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2005;

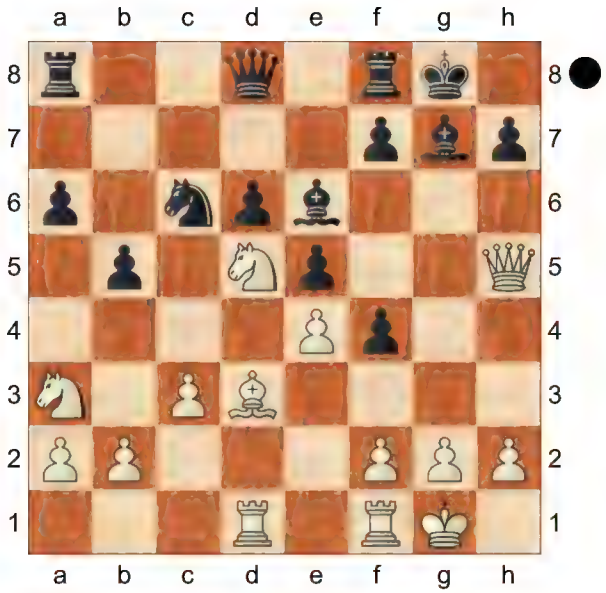
B1b112) 18...Bf7 19.Bf3 Qb6 20.Rad1 (J. Gubas - A. Valak, corr. 2008) b4 21.cxb4 Qxb4 22.Qxa6 Bxb2=;

B1b12) 18.Qf3 d5 *(18...b4 19.cxb4 d5 20.Bb7 Rb8 21.Bxa6 Rxb4 22.Rab1 d4 23.b3±* A. Groot - W. Pommerel Brouwer, corr. 2007 *)* 19.Bb7 Rb8 20.Bxa6 *(20.Rfe1 Bf7 21.Bxa6 Qa5 22.Bxb5 Rxb5 23.Nxb5 Qxb5=* H. Asis Gargatagli - D. Alsina Leal, Barcelona 2003 *)* 20...Qa5 21.Bxb5 Rxb5 22.Nxb5 Qxb5 23.Rfb1 Qa4= H. Koch - W. Kuhn, corr. 2008;

B1b2) 14...f4

B1b21) 15.Rad1

[Chapter]



Kh8 *(15...Ra7 16.Nc2 Kh8 17.Ncb4 Nxb4 18.Nxb4 Qd7 19.Be2 f5=* P. Svidler - V. Topalov, Cap d'Agde 2003 *)* 16.g3 Rg8 17.Kh1 Bf8 18.Be2 Rg5 19.Qf3 f5

B1b211) 20.exf5 Bxf5 *(20...Rxf5 21.Qe4 fxg3 22.fxg3 Rxf1+ 23.Rxf1 Ra7 24.Nc2 Ne7=* A. Negre - R. Roelens, corr. 2004 *)* 21.Nxf4 exf4 22.Qxc6 Rc8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. P. Svidler - L. Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2004;

B1b212) 20.gxf4

B1b2121) 20...exf4 21.Nxf4 Bxa2 22.c4 *(22.exf5 Rxf5 23.Qe4 Rf7 24.Bh5 Rf6 25.c4 Ne5* (V. Anand - V.

Topalov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2001) *26.Be2 Bb3 27.Nh5 Rg6=)*

B1b21211) 22...Ne5 23.Qc3 *(23.Qh3 Qe8 24.cxb5 fxe4 25.bxa6 Qf7 26.Qe3 Rf5 27.Qxe4 Re8=* Z. Nyvlt - W. Schoen, corr. 2007 *)* 23...Rg8 *(23...Qc8 24.Ra1 Bxc4 25.Nxc4 bxc4 26.Nd5±)* 24.exf5 Qg5 25.Ng6+ hxg6 26.f4 b4 27.Qxb4 Qxf5 28.fxe5 Qxe5 29.Bf3±;

B1b21212) 22...fxe4 23.Qxe4 Qe8 24.Bf3 Qxe4 25.Bxe4 Rc8 26.Ne6 Re5 27.Bxc6 Rxc6 28.Nxf8 b4 29.Nc2 Bxc4 30.Nd4 Rc8 31.Nd7 Bxf1 32.Rxf1 Re4= V. Anand - G. Hernandez Guerrero, Merida 2001;

B1b2122) 20...fxe4 21.Qxe4 Bf5 22.Qe3 exf4 23.Nxf4 Ne5 *(23...Ra7 24.Ne6 Bxe6 25.Qxe6 Re5 26.Qg4 Rg7 27.Qf3 Qe8 28.Bd3 Reg5=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. A. Goloshchapov - M. Pavlovic, Topola 2004 *)*

B1b21221) 24.Nd5 Bh6 *(24...Ng4 25.Bxg4 Rxg4 26.Rg1 Bg7 27.f3 Rxg1+ 28.Rxg1 Qf8=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. V. Anand - P. Leko, Wijk aan Zee 2001 *)* 25.Qd4 Rg7 26.f3 Qe8 27.Rg1 Qf7∓ Black has more than adequate compensation for material deficit. (Na3 is a poorly-placed piece.);

B1b21222) 24.f3 Qf6 25.Nd5 (D. Barua - J. Sriram, New Delhi 2001) Qg7 26.c4 Re8=;

B1b22) 15.g4 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

B1b221) 15...h6 16.Nc2 Rb8 17.Rfd1 a5 18.Na3 *(18.a3 Ne7 19.Ne1 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bxd5 21.Bh7+ Kxh7*

22.Qf5+ Kg8 23.Rxd5 (A. Areshchenko - P. Smirnov, Moscow 2006) *Re8 24.Rad1 Re6 25.h3 Qc7∓)* 18...Ne7 19.Bxb5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Bc8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit.;

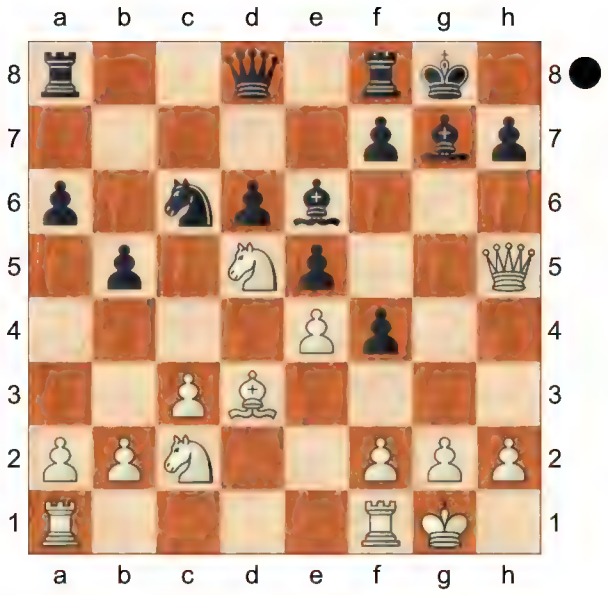
B1b222) 15...Kh8 16.Kh1 Rg8 17.g5 Ne7 18.f3 Bf8 19.Rad1 Rg7 20.Bc2 (J. Polgar - J. Nunn, Monte Carlo (rapid) 1994) Nxd5 21.exd5 Bd7 22.Rg1 Be7=;

B1b23) 15.Nc2 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

f5

B1b231) 16.a4 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.axb5 *(18.Nb4 e4 19.Bc2 bxa4 20.Bxa4 Ng6 21.Ra3 f3 22.g3 Ne5*



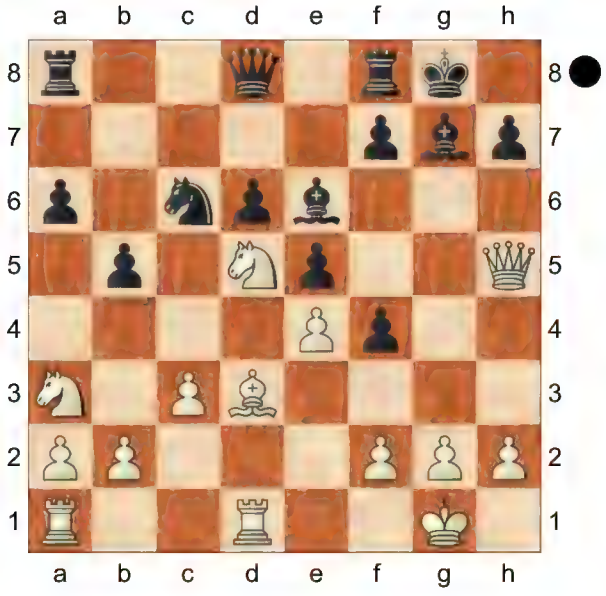
23.Nc6 Qc7= The position is objectively equal, although a touch more comfortable for Black. Gull 1.1 - Shredder 12, Internet 2010 *)* 18...e4 19.Bc4 axb5 20.Bxb5 Rb8 21.Bc6 Rxb2 22.Ra8 Nc8= P. Rosso - L. Da Costa Junior, corr. 2006;

B1b232) 16.Ncb4 Nxb4 17.Nxb4 a5

B1b2321) 18.exf5 Bf7 19.Qh3 Qf6 20.Nc2 b4 *(20...Rab8 21.g3* (V. Anand - L. McShane, Germany 2003) *b4 22.cxb4 axb4 23.gxf4 exf4=)* 21.cxb4 d5 22.Bb5 e4 23.Qg4 Rfc8 24.Ba4 Qh6 25.Rad1 Kh8∓ A. Herrera - V. Manaenkov, corr.

2010;
B1b2322) 18.Nc2 d5 *(18...Qd7 19.Rfd1 Rad8 20.Rd2 Rf6 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Rxf5 23.Qf3 Rg5 24.Rad1 Rg6 25.Rd5± G. Schulz - J. Gool, corr. 2008)* 19.exf5 Bf7 20.Qh3 Qd7 21.Rfd1 Ra6 22.a4 Rh6 23.Bxb5 Qd6 24.Qd3 e4 25.Qf1 Rh5= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. D. Ganor - I. Tsesarsky, Rishon Le Ziyyon 1990;

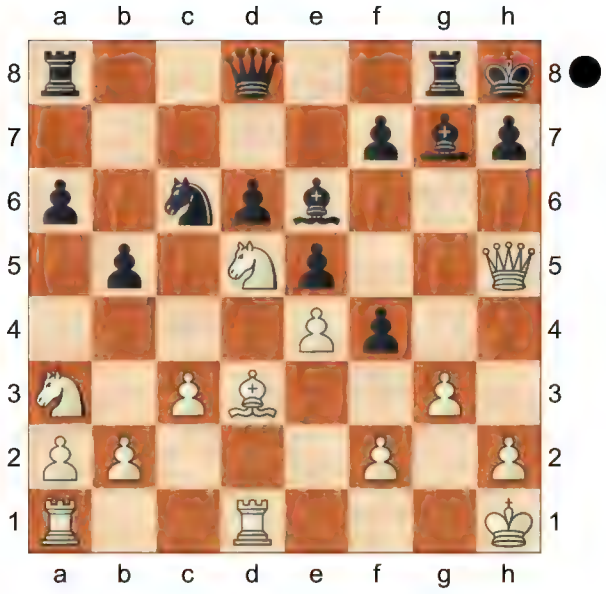
B1b24) 15.Rfd1 [Chapter]



B1b241) 15...Kh8

B1b2411) 16.g3 Rg8

B1b24111) 17.Kh1 (P. Smirnov - A. Grischuk, Sochi (rapid) 2004)



Bh6! 18.Be2 *(18.Qxh6? Rg6 19.Qh4 Qxh4 20.gxh4 Bg4-+)* 18...Rg6 19.Rf1 Ne7∓;

B1b24112) 17.Nc2 Bf8 18.Be2 Rg6=;

B1b2412) 16.Nc2 f5 17.a4 *(17.exf5 Bxd5 18.f6 Bh6 19.Qxh6 Ra7 20.f7 Rfxf7 21.Ne1 Rf6 22.Qh5 Rg7=* E. Inarkiev - V. Filippov, Sochi 2005 *)* 17...Bf7 18.Qe2 *(18.Qh3 Bxd5 19.exd5 Ne7 20.axb5 e4 21.Rxa6 exd3 22.Qxd3 Ng6 23.Nd4 Bxd4 24.Qxd4+ Kg8 25.Rda1 Rb8=)* 18...bxa4 19.Rxa4

a5 20.Rda1 Rb8 21.Ne1 Qg5 22.Nf3 Qh5 23.c4 Qh6 24.exf5 Bh5= V. Trofimov - F. Vidalina, corr. 2004;

B1b242) 15...Rb8 16.Nc2 Qd7

B1b2421) 17.h3

B1b24211) 17...a5 18.Na3 b4 *(18...Na7 19.Be2 f5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Rac1 Kh8 22.Bg4 Bxg4 23.hxg4±* Rybka 2.0 - Deep Shredder 10, Internet (blitz) 2006 *)* 19.Nb5 bxc3 20.bxc3 Ne7 21.Ndc7 Rbc8 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.a4 Kh8 24.Bc2 Rc6 25.Rd2 Nc8 26.Rad1 Qe7 27.Bb3± Key game V. Anand - V. Kramnik, Cap d'Agde 2003;

B1b24212) 17...f5 18.Ndb4 Nxb4 19.Nxb4 a5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Nc6 Rbe8 22.Bxb5 Qc7 23.Nxa5 *(23.Qf3 Kh8 24.Qd5 Re6 25.Bd3 e4 26.Bc2 f3 27.g3 Qd7=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. M. Shchebenyuk - V. Kozlov, corr. 2006 *)* 23...Rb8 24.Bc4+ Kh8 25.b4 Bg6 26.Qg4 e4= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. Z. Hracek - A. Shirov, Germany 2003;

B1b2422) 17.Qh4 f5 18.Ncb4 Nxb4 19.Nxb4 Bf6 20.Qh5 a5 21.exf5 Bf7 22.Qh6

B1b24221) 22...Bg7 23.Qh4 axb4 24.f6 Bg6 25.fxg7 Kxg7 *(25...Qxg7 26.Bxg6 Qxg6 27.cxb4 Rb7 28.f3±* F. Vallejo Pons - L. Van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004 *)* 26.cxb4 Rbc8 27.Qg5 Qe6 28.Be4 Rf6 29.Bd5 Qd7 30.Rac1± V. Topalov - L. Van Wely, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2004;

B1b24222) 22...Bc4 23.Bxc4+ bxc4 24.Nd5 Qxf5= G. Peli - A. Borowiec, corr. 2003;

B2) 13.0-0 Bxd5 14.exd5 Ne7= - 12. O-O Bxd5 13. exd5 Ne7 14. c3 Bg7;

B3) 13.Nxb5 [Chapter]

13...axb5 Top level line: Recommendation for advanced players (with international titles): 14.Bxb5

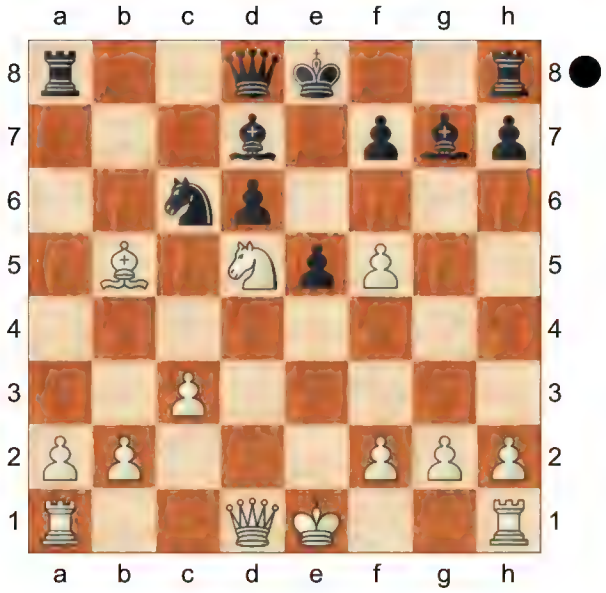
B3a) 14...Rc8 15.Qa4 Bd7 *(15...0-0 16.Bxc6 fxe4 17.0-0-0 Kh8 18.Kb1 f5 19.Nb4 Qb6 20.f3 e3 21.Bd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qb7 23.Qb3±* Z. Almasi - E. Sutovsky, Paks 2005 *)* 16.exf5 h5 17.0-0 Rh6

B3a1) 18.Rad1 Kf8 19.Rfe1 Ra8 20.Qc4 Rb8 21.a4 *(21.Bxc6 Rc8 22.Nb4 Qb6 23.a4 Bxc6 24.Nxc6 Rxc6=)* 21...Ne7 22.Nxe7 Qxe7 23.Qc7 Rd8 24.Bxd7 Rxd7 25.Qc4 Ra7= Stockfish 2.1.1 - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011;

B3a2) 18.Rfd1 Kf8 19.h3 Bf6 20.Qe4 Ne7 21.Nxe7 Bxe7 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.a4 Rf6 24.a5 Bd8 25.Qxe5 Qxf5 26.Qd4 Qc5 27.Qxc5 dxc5 28.Rd5= 1/2-1/2 A. Ermolaev - I. Telepnev, corr. 2010;

B3b) 14...Bd7 15.exf5

B3b1) [Chapter]



15...Rb8 16.a4 Rg8

B3b11) 17.0-0 Ne7 18.Ne3 d5 19.Qf3

B3b111) 19...Bxb5 20.axb5 e4 21.Qe2 Qd7 *(21...Bh6 22.f4 Qc7* (F. Vallejo Pons - M. Krasenkow, Sestao 2010) *23.f6 Ng6 24.Qh5 Bxf4 25.Nxd5 Qc5+ 26.Kh1±)* 22.b6 Qc6 23.Rfd1 Be5 24.g3±;

B3b112) 19...e4 20.Qf4 *(20.Qe2 Kf8 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Rfd1 d4 23.cxd4 Bf6 24.Ng4 Bh4 25.g3 Nxf5 26.Ne5 Qd5=)* 20...Bxb5 21.axb5 Rb6 22.Ra7 Bh6 23.Qe5 Bxe3 24.fxe3 f6 25.Qd4 Qd6 26.c4 dxc4

27.Qxc4 Kf8 28.Rfa1 Kg7 29.Qxe4 Re8 30.R1a6 Rxa6 31.bxa6 Qd1+ 32.Kf2 Kf8 33.Qb4 Qc2+= 1/2-1/2 M. Schnabel - V. Sergeev, corr. 2011;

B3b12) 17.Qf3 Ne7 18.Ne3± - 17. Ne3 Ne7 18. Qf3;

B3b13) 17.Ne3 Ne7 18.Qf3 *(18.Qxd6 Bxb5 19.Qxd8+ Kxd8 20.axb5 Rxb5 21.Ra6 Kc7 22.f6 Kb7 23.Rd6 Kc7=* 1/2-1/2 D. Mastrovasilis - L. Van Wely, Porto Carras 2011 *)* 18...Bf6 19.0-0 *(19.Ng4 Bg5 20.h4 h5 21.Nxe5 Bd2+ 22.Kxd2 dxe5 23.Kc2 Bxb5 24.axb5 Qb6=* W. So - S. Zhigalko, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010 *)* 19...Kf8 *(19...d5 20.Ng4 Qb6 21.a5 Qd6 22.Bxd7+ Kxd7 23.a6 h5 24.Ne3±* S. Azarov - M. Krasenkow, Jurmala 2012 *)* 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.a5 d5 22.a6 Qa7 23.Ng4 Rb6 24.Nxf6 Rxf6 25.Qe3± S. Abramov - V. Popov, corr. 2010;

B3b2) 15...Nb8

B3b21) 16.Qg4

B3b211) 16...Kf8 17.c4 *(17.Bc4 h5 18.Qf3 Bc6 19.f6 Bh6 20.0-0 Nd7 21.Rfd1 Ra7 22.Qd3* (A. Istratescu - R. Felgaer, Dresden 2008) *Nxf6 23.Nxf6 Qxf6 24.Qxd6+ Qxd6 25.Rxd6 Bd7∓; 17.Bd3 h5 18.Qf3 Bc6 19.Be4 Nd7 20.0-0 Nc5∓* R. Messa - M. Pangrazzi, Rome 1982 *)* 17...Bc6 18.Bxc6 Nxc6 19.0-0 h5 20.Qe4 Rc8=;

B3b212) 16...0-0= - 15... O-O 16. Qg4 Nb8;

B3b22) 16.a4 Bxb5 *(16...Kf8 17.0-0 Bxf5 18.Qf3 Bd7 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Nc7 e4 21.Qxe4 Rb8 22.Nb5±* T. Gara - P. Llaneza Vega, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010*; 16...0-0 17.0-0 Bxf5 18.Qf3 Be6 19.Nf6+ Bxf6 20.Qxa8 Qb6 21.Qf3± Bg7 22.c4 Qc5 23.a5 Bxc4 24.Bxc4 Qxc4 25.Qa3 Na6 26.Rfc1 Qe6 27.Rc6 Nc5 28.Rd1±* C. Moreno Carretero - T. Runting, corr. 2007 *)* 17.axb5 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Nd7 19.Qa7 0-0 20.0-0 e4 21.Re1 *(21.b6 Be5 22.b7 Kg7 23.Qe3 Qh4 24.g3 Qg4 25.Ra1 Rb8 26.h3 Qxf5 27.Ra8 h6 28.Rxb8* (1/2-1/2 D. Petrovic - P. Daus, corr. 2009) *Nxb8=)* 21...Be5

B3b221) 22.b6 Nf6 23.Ne7+ Kg7 24.Nc6

(24.Qc7 Qd7 25.Qxd7 Nxd7 26.Nd5 Nf6 27.Nxf6 Kxf6 28.g4 d5∓ E. Najer - P. Tregubov, Dagomys 2009 *)* 24...Qc8 25.Nxe5 dxe5=;

B3b222) 22.Rxe4 Nf6 23.Ne7+ Kg7 24.Re1 Re8 25.Nc6 Qc8= P. Hugentobler - D. Korze, corr. 2008;

B3b3) 15...e4 16.0-0 0-0= - 15... O-O 16. O-O e4;

B3b4) 15...0-0 [Chapter]

B3b41) 16.Qg4

B3b411) 16...Nb8 17.0-0 *(17.a4 h5 18.Qg3 Bxf5 19.Qf3 Be6 20.Ne7+ Qxe7 21.Qxa8 d5=* S. Dibley - A. Borwell, corr. 2005 *)* 17...h5 18.Qf3 e4 *(18...Qg5 19.a4 Ra7 20.Qe3 Qxe3 21.fxe3 Bh6 22.e4 Bg5 23.b4±* F. Vallejo Pons - V. Topalov, Linares 2004 *)* 19.Qxe4 Re8 20.Qd3 Bxb5 21.Qxb5 Nd7= Z. Almasi - Ni Hua, Reggio Emilia 2009;

B3b412) 16...Kh8

B3b4121) 17.Qe4 Rg8 *(17...Ra5 18.a4 Ne7 19.Nxe7 Bxb5 20.Qh4 Re8 21.f6 Bf8 22.Qg4 Rxe7 23.fxe7 Bxe7∓* Li Chao - Li Shilong, Moscow 2009 *)* 18.f6 Bh6 19.Bd3 Rg6 20.h4 Qg8∓ A. Istratescu - A. Moiseenko, Montreal 2008;

B3b4122) 17.0-0 Rg8 18.a4 Bh6 19.Qf3 *(19.Qe4 Ne7 20.Nxe7 Qxe7 21.Rfd1 Ra7 22.Bxd7 Qxd7=)* 19...Rc8 20.Rfd1 Qg5 21.g3 Bxf5 22.Ne3 Ne7 23.Nxf5 Nxf5 24.Qe4 Nxg3 25.hxg3 f5= G. Polklaeser - G. Engelhardt, corr. 2008;

B3b42) 16.0-0

B3b421) 16...e4

B3b4211) 17.a4 Re8 18.Qg4 Kh8 19.Rad1 *(19.Rfe1 Re5 20.Ne3 Qf6 21.Rad1 Rg8 22.Qe2 Bh6 23.Ng4*

Rxg4 24.Qxg4 d5 25.f3 Bxf5 26.Qg3 Bg6 27.Bxc6 Bf4 28.Qg4 Rg5 29.Qc8+ Kg7 30.Rxd5 Bxh2+ 31.Kxh2 Rxg2+ 32.Kxg2 (1/2-1/2 A. Efremov - M. Schwenck, corr. 2010) *Qxf3+ 33.Kg1 Qg3+=)*

B3b42111)
Updated on September 16, 2014 19...Rb8 20.Rfe1 Ne5 *(20...Qc8 21.Rxe4 Rxe4 22.Qxe4 Bxf5 23.Qf4 Be5 24.Qh4 Qb7 25.b4 Be6 26.Nf6 Bf5 27.Qg5±*
White has the initiative. S. Boehme - V. Portych, corr. 2012 *)* 21.Qxe4 Bxb5 22.axb5 Rxb5

B3b421111) 23.f4 Rxb2! 24.Kh1 *(24.fxe5 Bxe5 25.g3 Rg8 26.Nf4 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Bxc3=)* 24...Rg8 25.f6 Bxf6 26.Nxf6 Qxf6 27.fxe5 Qxe5 28.Qxe5+ dxe5=
Equal chances, quiet position. Wei Yi - Yu Yangyi, Danzhou 2014;

B3b421112) 23.b4! Rb8 24.Qf4 Rg8 25.Re3 Bf6 26.Rg3 Rxg3 27.hxg3±
White has more than adequate compensation for material deficit. White has good knight placement.;

B3b42112)
19...Rc8 20.Rfe1 Re5 21.Ne3 Qf6 22.Qe2 *(22.Qh5 Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Rxf5 24.Qh3 Ne5 25.Rxe4 Rg8∓*
A. Delchev - V. Kotronias, Le Port Marly 2009 *)* 22...Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Qxf5 24.Rxd6 Nb8 25.Rb6
*(*Updated on September 16, 2014 *25.Red1 Bf6 26.Rb6* (J. Duda - A. Moiseenko, Lublin 2014) *Kg7 27.Bc4 Nc6 28.Rb7 Ne7=* with mutual play. *)* 25...Bf6 26.Rb7 Be7 27.Rd1 Nc6 28.b4 e3=
The position is objectively equal, but precise play is required from both sides. Z. Karacsony - T. Schmidt, corr.

2010;
B3b4212) 17.Re1 Re8 18.a4
B3b42121) 18...Ra7 19.Qg4 Kh8 20.Rad1 Re5 21.Ne3 Qc7 22.Qf4 Bf8 23.Qh4± Wang Hao - A. Timofeev, Sarajevo 2010;
B3b42122) 18...Rc8?! 19.a5 *(19.Qg4 Re5 20.Ne3 Qf6 21.Rad1 Kh8=* - 17. a4 Re8 18. Qg4 Kh8 19. Rad1 Rc8 20. Rfe1 Re5 21. Ne3 Qf6 *)* 19...Re5 *(*worse move is *19...Bxf5 20.Qa4 Na7 21.Bxe8 Qxe8 22.Qxe8+ Rxe8 23.a6±* White can increase his advantage with accurate play. P. Smirnov - V. Filippov, Kemerovo 2010 *)* 20.a6 Bxf5 21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.a7 Rc8 23.f4 Re8 24.Qb3 Bd7 25.Nb6± White has a passed pawn.;
B3b42123) 18...Ne5?! 19.f6! Bxb5 20.axb5 Rxa1 21.Qxa1 Bxf6 22.Rxe4 Nd7 (E. Berg - L. Van Wely, Tromsoe 2010) 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.b6 Kg7 25.Qd1± White has more than adequate compensation for material deficit.;
B3b42124) 18...Re5 19.Ne3 Ne7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.f6 Bxf6 22.Qg4+ Qxg4 23.Nxg4 Re6 24.Nxf6+ Rxf6 25.Rxe4 Kf8 26.Kf1 d5 27.Rd4 Rfa6 28.b3 Rc8 29.Rd3= 1/2-1/2 J. Feco - M. Wuerschner, corr. 2010;
B3b422) 16...Re8 17.a4 *(17.Qf3 e4 18.Qg3 Kh8 19.Qxd6* (S. Karjakin - L. McShane, Pamplona 2003) *Ne5 20.Bxd7 Ra7 21.Nb6 Nxd7 22.Nc4 Qc8∓)* 17...e4= - 16... e4 17. a4 Re8;
B3b423) 16...Kh8 17.a4 *(17.Re1 f6 18.a4 Rb8 19.b4 Ne7 20.Bxd7 Qxd7 21.Nxe7 Qxe7 22.a5 Rfc8 23.Ra3 Qd7 24.a6 d5 25.Qd3 Bf8=* B. Socko - S. Zhigalko, Lublin 2009 *)* 17...f6 18.b4 Rb8

19.Qd3 Re8 20.Rfd1 e4 21.Qe2 Qc8 22.a5 *(22.Ba6 Qd8 23.Bb5=* 1/2-1/2 Z. Almasi - A. Shirov, Germany 2004 *)* 22...Ne7 23.Bxd7 Qxd7 24.Qxe4 Nxd5 25.Qxd5±;

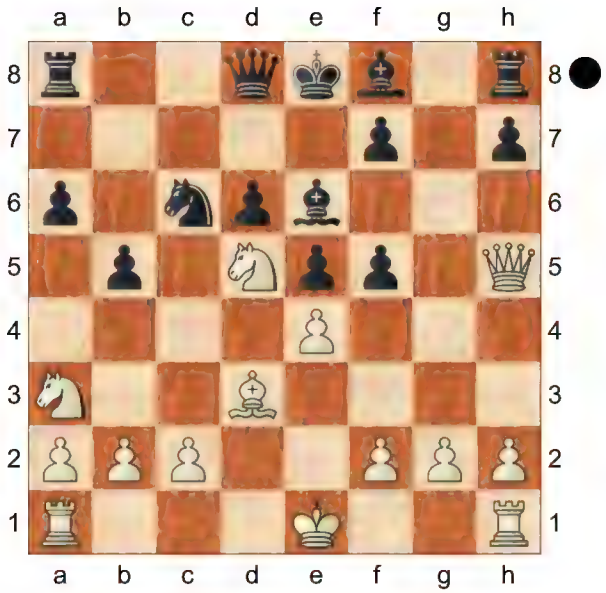
B3b424) 16...Rb8 17.a4 Re8 18.Qg4 Kh8 19.Qe4 f6 20.b4 Ne7 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 22.Nxe7 Rxe7 *(22...Qxe7 23.a5 Rec8 24.Rfb1 Qd7 25.c4 d5* (Z. Almasi - Wang Yue, Paks 2006) *26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.cxd5 Bf8 28.b5±)* 23.Rfd1 Qc7 24.a5 *(24.Rd3 d5 25.Rxd5 Qxc3 26.Rad1* (M. Parligras - N. Nguyen, Budapest 2004) *Bf8 27.b5 Rc7 28.Qh4 Be7=)* 24...Qxc3 25.b5 Ra7 26.Qa4 Bh6 27.Rxd6 Bf8 28.Rxf6 Bc5 29.Rc6 Rg8 30.Rf1 Rag7 31.Rg6 hxg6 32.Qh4+ Rh7 33.Qf6+ Rhg7 34.Qh4+= 1/2-1/2 I. Cheparinov - A. Timofeev, Moscow 2010]

[12.Qh5 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

A) 12...f4

A1) 13.c3 Rg8 14.g3 Bg4



15.Qxh7 Rg6 16.Qh4 Qxh4 17.gxh4 Bf3 18.Rf1 *(18.h5 Rh6 19.Rg1 0-0-0 20.Nb1 f5 21.Nd2 fxe4 22.Bxe4 Bxe4 23.Nxe4 Ne7 24.Nef6 Nxd5 25.Nxd5 Rxh5=* R. Loncar - S. Maksimovic, Caorle 1989 *)* 18...Rc8 19.Nc2 f5 20.exf5 Rh6= N. Short - Gy. Sax, Saint John 1988;

A2) 13.g3 Rg8 14.gxf4 exf4 *(14...Bg4 15.Qxh7 Rg7 16.Qh8 Bf3 17.Rf1 Nd4 18.c3 f5 19.Nc2 fxe4 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.Be2 Bxe2 22.Kxe2 Qc8 23.Qh5+ Rf7 24.b3 Bg7 25.Rg1 Kf8 26.Rg5±* J. Killane - L. Neubauer, corr. 1990 *)* 15.Qxh7 Rg7 16.Qh8 Bxd5 17.exd5 Qe7+ 18.Kf1 Ne5 19.Re1 Qg5 20.Qh3 Kd8 21.Be4 Rc8= M. Begliy - H. Isigkeit, corr. 2010;

B) 12...Bg7 13.0-0± - 12. O-O Bg7 13. Qh5;

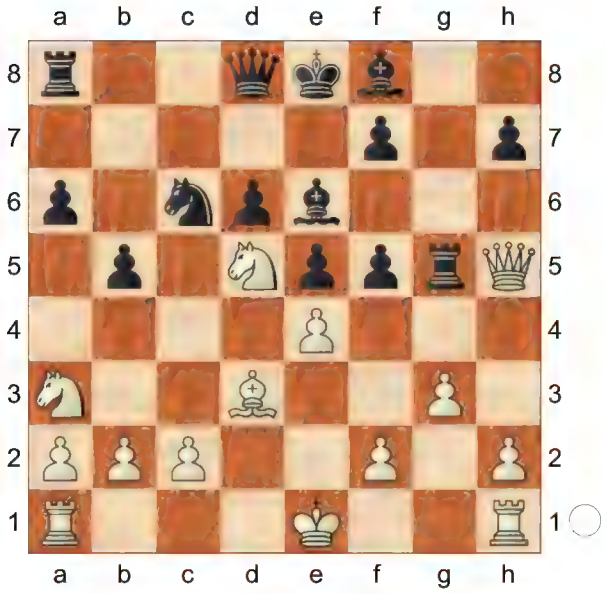
C) 12...Rg8

C1) 13.0-0 f4 14.h3 *(14.c3? Bg4 15.Qxh7 Rg6 16.g3 Rh6*

17.Qg8 Be6 (with the idea f5) White has poor queen placement. *18.Be2 Ra7 19.Rae1 Qd7 20.Nb6 Qb7 21.Nd5 Ne7 22.Qg5 Nxd5 23.exd5 Qxd5 24.Bg4 fxg3 25.fxg3 Qc5+ 26.Kg2 Rg6-+* Fritz 13 - Deep Shredder 12, Internet 2011 *)* 14...Rg5 15.Nc7+ Kd7 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qd1 Qf6= V. Taksrud - E. Lindhom, corr. 2005;

C2) 13.g3

C2a) 13...Rg5 [Chapter]



14.Qd1 *(14.Qxh7? Nd4 15.c3 Nf3+ 16.Ke2 Bxd5 17.exd5 e4 18.h4 Rg6 19.h5 Rg5 20.Qh8 Qe7 21.Bc2 0-0-0-+* White has poor queen placement. A. Tuzhik - A. Parkhomenko, Novosibirsk 2009 *)* 14...Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7

C2a1) 16.Nxb5 Qb6 17.Na3 *(17.Nc3 e4* (H. Bromann-Manthey - G. Krumm, corr. 2007) *18.Be2 Qxb2 19.Na4= Qa3 20.c3 Bg7 21.0-0 Bxc3 22.Rb1 Be5 23.Rb7=)* 17...Qxb2 18.Nc4 Qc3+ 19.Kf1 Nxd5 *(19...Rd8 20.Rb1 e4* (J. Polgar - P. Leko, Budapest 2003) *21.f4! Rg6 22.Rb3 Qf6 23.Be2 Bg7 24.Na5±)* 20.Be2 Rb8 21.Qxd5 Qxa1+ 22.Kg2 Qd4 23.Qc6+ Kd8 24.f3= White has sufficient compensation for material deficit.;

C2a2) 16.c3

C2a21) 16...Qb6 17.Nc2 e4 18.Be2

C2a211) 18...f4 19.Qd2 Rxd5 20.Qxf4 Re5 *(20...Rf5 21.Qe3* (B. Predojevic - G. Timoshenko, Budapest 2003) *Rb8 22.Rd1 d5 23.0-0±)* 21.0-0 Bg7 22.Kh1 b4 23.c4 d5 24.Rad1 Rd8 25.cxd5 Nxd5 26.Qh4 Qg6 27.Ne3± A. Grischuk - M. Krasenkow, Wijk aan Zee 2003;

C2a212) 18...Bh6 19.a4 *(19.f4 Rg6* (V. Ivanov - I. Larin, corr. 2009) *20.Qd2 Bg7=)* 19...bxa4 20.Nb4 a5 21.Qxa4+ Kf8 22.Qb5 Qxb5 23.Bxb5 f4=;

C2a22) 16...Bh6 17.Be2

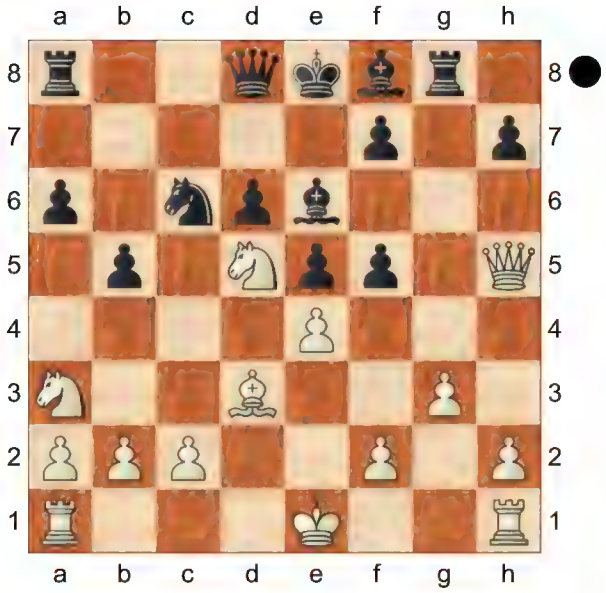
C2a221) 17...Kf8 18.Nc2 Rb8 19.0-0 f4 20.Qd3 Kg8 21.Kh1 fxg3 22.fxg3 f5 23.a4 bxa4 24.Nb4 a5 25.Nc6 Nxc6 26.dxc6

Qc7 27.Rxf5 Rxf5 28.Qxf5 Qxc6+= M. Dedina - J. Bures, corr. 2006;

C2a222) 17...Rc8 18.Nc2 *(18.c4 f4 19.cxb5 e4 20.gxf4 Qa5+ 21.Kf1 Rxd5 22.Qe1* (J. Polgar - J. Lautier, Enghien les Bains 2003) *Qxe1+ 23.Rxe1 axb5 24.Bxb5+ Kf8 25.Rxe4 Ng6*= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. *)* 18...Rc5 19.a4 *(19.Nb4 a5 20.Na6 Rxd5 21.Bxb5+ Kf8 22.Qb3 a4 23.Qxa4 Qb6 24.Be2 Rd2 25.Qb5 Qxb5 26.Bxb5 Rxb2∓* A. Tucci - J. Fiala, corr. 2003 *)* 19...Rxd5 20.Qb1 Rc5 21.axb5 axb5 (A. Silva - K. Stepanov, corr. 2006) 22.0-0 Kf8 23.Rd1 Rg6 24.Bh5 Rf6 25.Nb4= White has sufficient compensation for material deficit.;

C2a223) 17...Qb6 18.Nc2 Kf8 19.a4 bxa4 20.Nb4 e4 21.Qxa4 f4 22.Qa5 Qb7 23.Bxa6 Qd7 24.Qa4 Qf5 25.Qd1 Ng6= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. M. Versili - W. Standke, corr. 2007;

C2b) [Chapter]

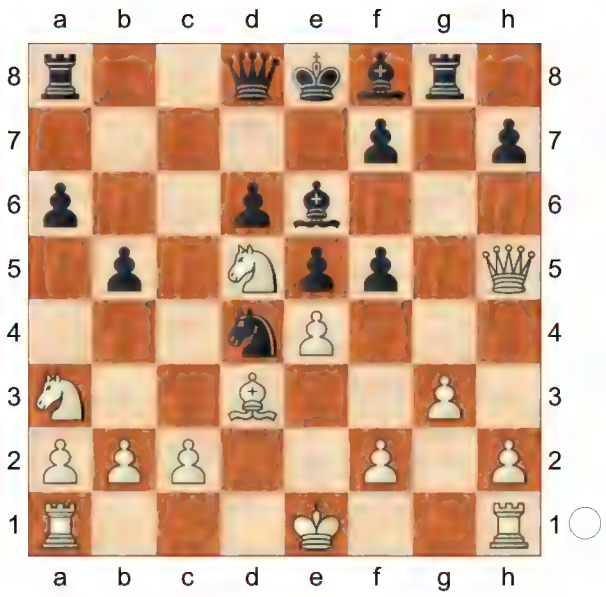


13...Rc8 14.c3 Rg6 15.Qd1 *(15.Nc2 fxe4 16.Bxe4 Bg4 17.Qh4 Qxh4 18.gxh4 f5 19.h5 Rg7 20.Nce3 fxe4 21.Nxg4 Kf7 22.Ngf6 Ke6* X. Cheng - A. Shabalov, Chicago 2006 *)* 15...Bh6 16.Nc2 fxe4 17.Bxe4 f5 (H. Kelstrup - H. Van Kempen, corr. 1991) 18.Bf3 Kf8 19.a4 bxa4 20.Rxa4 a5=;

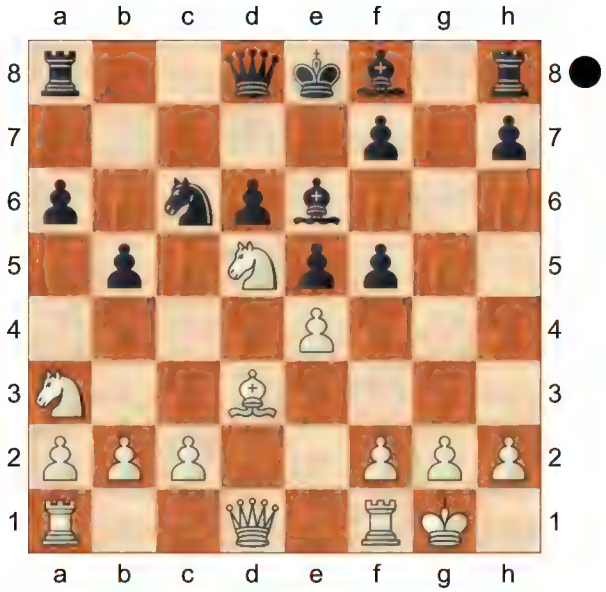
C2c) 13...h6 14.c3 Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Nc2 e4 17.Bf1 *(17.Be2 Rg5 18.Qh3 Bg7*= A. Areshchenko - A. Moiseenko, Warsaw 2005 *)* 17...Qb6 18.Qe2 Nxd5 (V. Rudenko - M. Dunwoody, corr. 2009) 19.Bh3 Qc5 20.0-0-0 Nf6 21.f3±;

C2d) 13...Nd4 [Chapter]

(Diagram)



14.c3 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Bg4 16.Qxh7 Rg7 17.Qh6 Nf3+ 18.Ke2 *(18.Kf1 Rg5 19.Nf6+ Ke7 20.Qh8 Nd2+ 21.Kg2 Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Rg6 23.Qh4+ Ke6 24.Qxd8 Rxd8 25.h4 f6 26.Nd2 Bf5 27.Nb3 d5=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. W. Blank - E. Rosche, corr. 2003*; 18.Kd1? Ng5+ 19.f3 Rg6 20.Qh4 Nxe4 21.fxg4* (F. Vallejo Pons - L. Van Wely, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2005) *Ng5 22.Qh8 Qc8 23.Kc2 b4 24.Nb1 Ne4-+* and Black has a decisive attack. *)* 18...Ng5+ 19.f3 Nxe4 20.fxg4 Qc8 21.Qe3 Qxg4+ 22.Qf3 Qxf3+ 23.Kxf3 f5 24.Nc2 Kf7 25.Nce3 *(25.Nde3 Ke6 26.Nxf5 Ng5+ 27.Kg4 Rg8 28.Rhf1 d5 29.Rae1 Ne4+ 30.Kh3 Bc5=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. K. Asrian - L. Van Wely, Moscow 2004 *)* 25...Nf6 *(25...Ke6?! 26.Nxf5 Ng5+ 27.Kg4 Rf7 28.Rhf1 Ne4 29.Rad1 Raa7 30.Nde3 Rad7 31.Kf3 d5 32.g4±* A. Beliavsky - A. Shirov, Groningen 1993 *)* 26.a4 Nxd5 27.Nxd5 Ke6 28.Rhd1 Raa7 29.b4 *(29.Nb4 Rgc7 30.axb5 axb5 31.Rxa7 Rxa7∓* P. Acs - L. Van Wely, Plovdiv 2003 *)* 29...Rh7 30.h4 Bh6 31.Kf2 Rhg7= Rybka 2.1o - Rybka 2.1d3, Internet (blitz) 2007]



12...Bxd5 [Chapter]
[12...Bg7 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

Promising line for White: 13.Qh5 f4 14.c4

A) 14...b4 15.Nc2 a5

A1) 16.Rfd1 0-0 17.a3 b3 *(17...Qd7 18.axb4 Bg4 19.Qg5 f6 20.Qh4 Bxd1 21.b5 Qg4 22.Qxg4 Bxg4 23.bxc6 Rab8 24.Na3 Rxb2 25.Nb5±*

R. Szymanski - T. Tenev, corr. 2010 *)* 18.Ne1 Nd4 19.Nf3 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Bxd5 21.cxd5 Qb6 22.a4 Rac8 23.Ra3±;

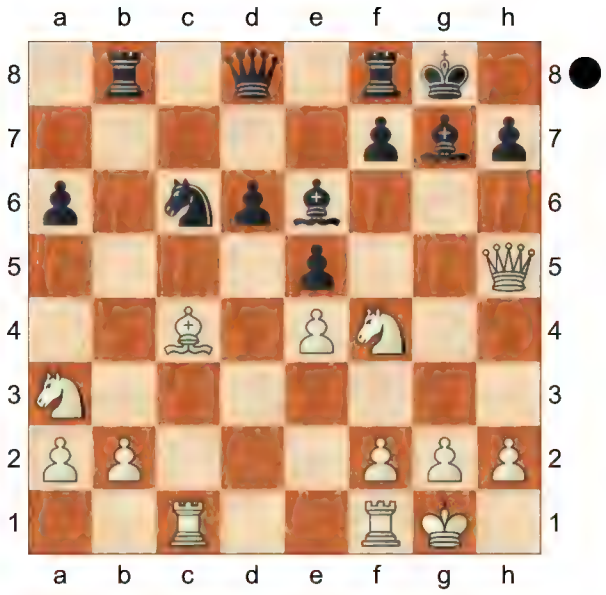
A2) 16.b3 0-0 17.a3 bxa3 18.Rxa3 Rb8 19.Rd1 Qd7 20.Be2 f5 21.Bd3 Qf7 (H. Heiss - P. Koenig, corr. 2000) 22.Qf3 Kh8 23.Nc3±;

B) 14...bxc4 15.Bxc4 0-0 16.Rac1 Rb8 *(16...Ne7 17.Rfd1 Rc8 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Rc3 Kh8 20.b3 f5 21.Rh3 h6 22.Bxe6 Qxe6 23.Rhd3 Rcd8 24.Qe2 fxe4 25.Qxe4 f3 26.Nc4±* N. Short - Gy. Sax, Saint John 1988 *)*

B1) 17.Nxf4 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

B1a) 17...Bxc4 18.Rxc4 Ne7 19.Nd3 f5 20.b3 *(20.Rd1 fxe4 21.Rxe4* (A. Volokitin - Y. Yakovich, Moscow 2007) *d5 22.Rg4 Rf5 23.Qh4 Qd6 24.f3 Rbf8 25.Qg3 Ng6 26.Nc2±)* 20...fxe4 21.Rxe4 d5 22.Rh4 h6 23.Rg4 Kh7



24.Nxe5 Rf5 25.Rxg7+ Kxg7 26.Qg4+ Rg5 27.Qe2±;

B1b) 17...exf4 18.Bxe6

B1b1) 18...Ne7 (J. Perez Garcia - A. Chamorro Areses, corr. 1991) 19.Bc4 Bxb2 20.Rcd1 Bg7 *(20...Bxa3? 21.Rd3 Ng6 22.Rh3+-)* 21.Bb3±;

B1b2) 18...fxe6 19.Rxc6 Rxb2 20.Nc4 *(20.Rd1 Rxa2 21.Nc4 f3 22.gxf3 Qf6=* P. McKenzie - J. Sutherland, Dunedin 1992 *)* 20...Rc2 21.Ne5 Rxc6 *(21...Rxa2 22.Qg4 Qe7 23.Nf3 Kh8 24.Ng5 Be5 25.Nxe6 Rg8 26.Qf5±)* 22.Nxc6 Qd7 23.Rc1 f3 24.g3 Kh8=;

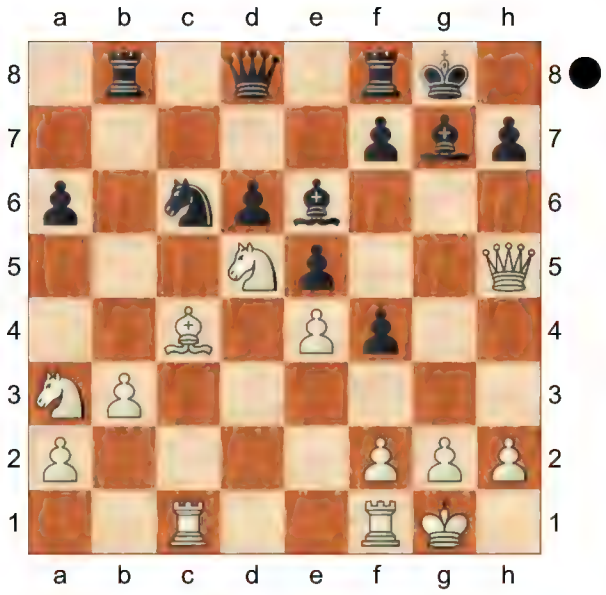
B2) 17.b3 [Chapter]

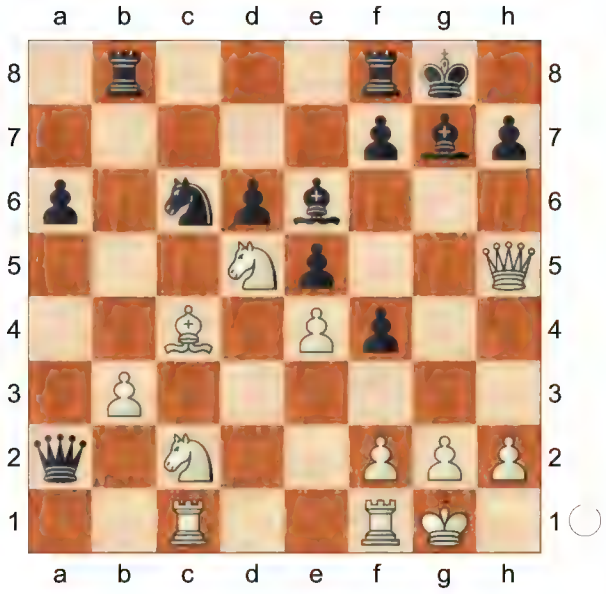
(Diagram)

B2a) 17...Qa5 18.Nc2

B2a1) 18...Qxa2?

(Diagram)





19.Ncb4!! Nxb4 *(19...Rxb4 20.Nxb4 Nxb4 21.Bxe6 fxe6+-* - 19... Nxb4 20. Ne7+ Kh8 21. Bxe6 fxe6 22. Ng6+ Kg8 23. Nxf8 Rxf8 *)* 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Ng6+ Kg8 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.Rc7 Kh8 *(24...Qa5 25.Rfc1 Nd3 26.Qg4+-* J. Echavarria - A. De Leo, Dos Hermanas (blitz) 2004 *)* 25.Qg4 Rg8 26.Qxe6 Rf8 *(26...h6 27.Rc8 Rf8+-* - 26... Rf8 27. Rc8 h6 *)* 27.Rc8 h6 *(27...Qd2 28.Rxf8+ Bxf8 29.Qf7 Bh6 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.Qxh6+-)* 28.Rxf8+ Bxf8 29.Qf7 Bg7 30.Rc1 Nc2 31.Qf5 Qxb3 32.Qc8+ Kh7 33.Qxc2+- T. Lagemann - F. Fritsche, corr. 2002;

B2a2) 18...Kh8 19.Qe2 *(19.Rfd1 Qxa2 20.Qe2 Qa5 21.Ra1 Qd8 22.Rxa6 Na5 23.Ncb4 Nxc4 24.bxc4 Rb7=* M. Gonschior - K. Zeh, corr. 2008*; 19.b4 Qd8 20.Rfd1 f5 21.exf5 Rxf5 22.Qh3 Rf6 23.Qf3 Rh6 24.Bxa6 Qh4 25.h3 Rg8=* J. Krebs - M. Oliveira, corr. 2010 *)* 19...Rg8 20.Kh1 Bh6 21.f3 Rg5 22.Rfd1 Rbg8 23.Ne1 Bh3 24.Rd2 Nd4 25.Qd1⩲;

B2b) 17...Qd7 18.Rfd1 Kh8 19.Qh4 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Nb4 *(20...Nd4 21.Rc4 Rg8 22.Rd3* (with the idea Nc2) *Rgc8 23.Qh5 f5 24.Rh3 Bf8 25.Kf1 fxe4 26.Bxe4 h6 27.Rh4 a5 28.g3±* S. Goerlinger - F. Gerhardt, corr. 2002 *)*

B2b1) 21.Nc4 Nxa2 22.Rc2 Nb4 23.Rcd2= White has sufficient compensation for material deficit. A. Grischuk - V. Ivanchuk, Moscow 2002;

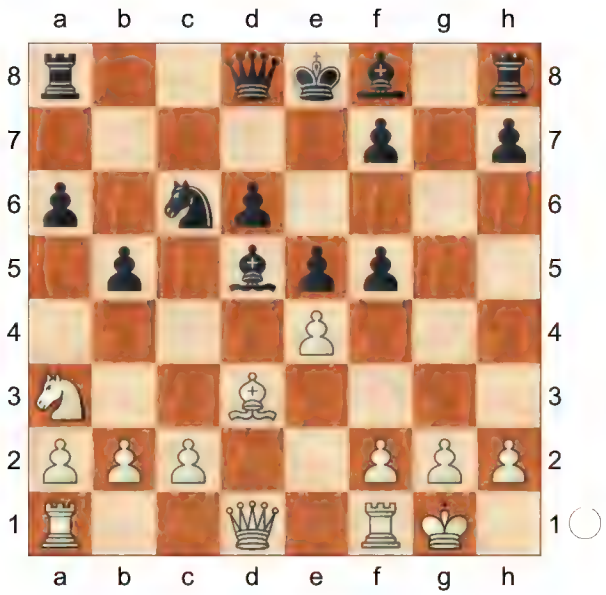
B2b2) 21.Rc3 Nxa2 22.Rh3 h6 23.Nc4 Nb4 24.Bc6 Qc7 *(24...Qd8 25.Qh5 Kg8 26.Rxd6 Qg5*

27.Qxg5 hxg5 28.Bd7 Rfd8= C. Wieringen - J. Waard, corr. 1997 *)* 25.Rxd6 f6 26.Rd7 Rfd8 27.Qg4 Rxd7 28.Bxd7 Nc2=;
B2b3) 21.Rd2 a5 *(21...f5 22.Qh3 f3 23.Nc4 fxg2 24.Rcd1 Rf6 25.exf5 Nxd5 26.Rxd5 Qxf5 27.Qxf5 Rxf5 28.Nxd6 Rf4 29.Ne4±* J. Kloepping - H. Koronowski, corr. 2004 *)* 22.Nc4 a4 23.Rcd1 axb3 24.axb3± V. Malyshev - N. Bensiek, corr. 2008]

[12...f4 [Chapter]

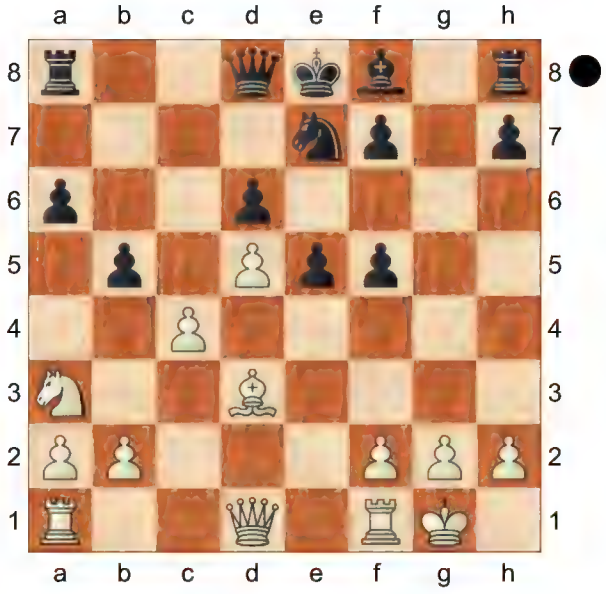
13.c4

A) 13...Rg8 14.cxb5 Bxd5 *(14...Bh3 15.g3 Nd4 16.bxa6*+- S. Tilak - M. Muralidharan, India 1994 *)* 15.exd5 Nd4 16.bxa6 Qa5 17.Rc1 Be7 18.Kh1 Kf8 19.Re1 f3 20.g3+- Rybka 2.3.1 - Rybka 2.3.1, Internet (blitz) 2007;
B) 13...b4 14.Nc2 a5 15.Ne1 Rg8 16.Bc2 Rc8 17.Ba4± N. Guliyev - P. Vandevoort, Charleroi 2005]



13.exd5 Ne7 14.c3 [Chapter]

[14.c4 [Chapter]



A) 14...Bg7 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

A1) 15.Rb1
A1a) 15...bxc4
A1a1) 16.Nxc4 0-0 17.Re1 f4 18.b4 f5 19.Bf1 e4 *(19...Ng6 20.Rb3 e4=* P. Smirnov - P. Tregubov,

Krasnoyarsk 2007 *)* 20.f3 e3 21.a4 Rb8 22.Qd3 Ng6= A. Shomoev - P. Tregubov, Moscow 2008;

A1a2) 16.Qa4+ Kf8 *(16...Qd7?!* (V. Bosse - J. Dorst, Bad Zwesten 2001) *17.Bc2! Nxd5 18.Nxc4±)* 17.Nxc4 h5 *(17...Rg8 18.Qa3 e4 19.Be2 Nc8 20.f3±)* 18.Na5 Qe8 19.Qa3 e4 20.Be2 Rh6 21.Rfd1 f4 22.Rbc1 Rg6 23.Kh1±;

A1b) 15...e4 16.Be2= - 14... e4 15. Be2 Bg7 16. Rb1;

A2) 15.Qd2 bxc4 *(15...e4 16.Be2*= - 14... e4 15. Be2 Bg7 16. Qd2 *)* 16.Nxc4 0-0

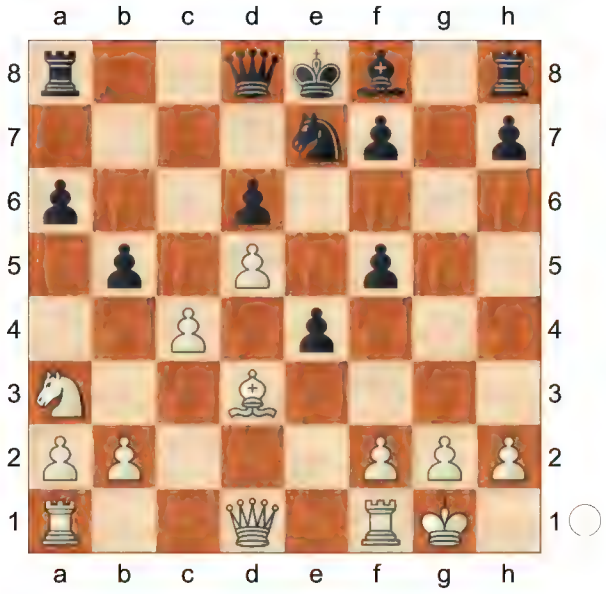
A2a) 17.a4 e4 18.Be2 Ng6 19.f4

A2a1) 19...exf3 20.Rxf3 f4 21.Kh1 Qc7 22.Raf1 Rae8 23.Bd3 f5 24.b3 *(24.g3?! Qc5 25.Qf2 Bd4 26.Qg2 Kh8∓* E. Najer - V. Ivanchuk, Istanbul 2003 *)* 24...Qc5 25.Rh3 Qxd5 26.Qd1 Rf7 27.Qh5±;

A2a2) 19...Rb8 20.Rab1 Rb3 21.Kh1 (A. Simakhin - I. De Carlos Arregui, corr. 2006) Qb8=;

A2b) 17.Rac1 Rb8 18.Rfd1 *(18.b3 e4 19.Be2 Rb5 20.Ne3 Qa5 21.Qe1 Qxe1 22.Rfxe1 Ra5*= V. Kotronias - M. Krasenkow, Aghia Pelagia 2004 *)* 18...e4 19.Bf1 Ng6 20.b3 Qf6= M. Rummele - W. Fischer, corr. 2010;

B) 14...e4 [Chapter]



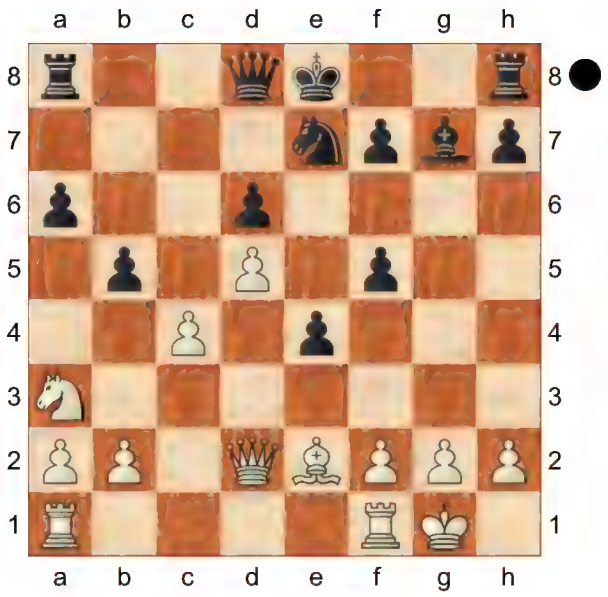
15.Be2 Bg7

B1) 16.Qd2 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

b4 17.Qxb4

B1a) 17...0-0 18.Rab1 *(18.Qd2 Ng6 19.Rae1 Be5 20.c5 dxc5 21.Nc4 Bd4 22.d6 Rb8 23.b3 Kg7 24.Kh1 Qf6 25.Qc2 Ne5*= The position is objectively equal, although a touch more



comfortable for Black. Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011 *)* 18...Ng6 19.f4 Rb8 20.Qd2 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bxb2 22.Nc2 Ne7 23.g4 Qc5 24.gxf5 Bf6= S. Marjanovic - B. Vuckovic, Vrnjacka Banja 2010;

B1b) 17...Rb8 18.Qa4+ Kf8 19.Rab1 Bxb2 20.Nc2 *(20.Qc2 Be5 21.Rxb8 Qxb8 22.Rb1 Qc8 23.c5 Kg7 24.cxd6 Qxc2 25.Nxc2 Bxd6 26.Bxa6 Nxd5*= Gandalf 6.01 - Zappa Mexico II, Internet 2008 *)*

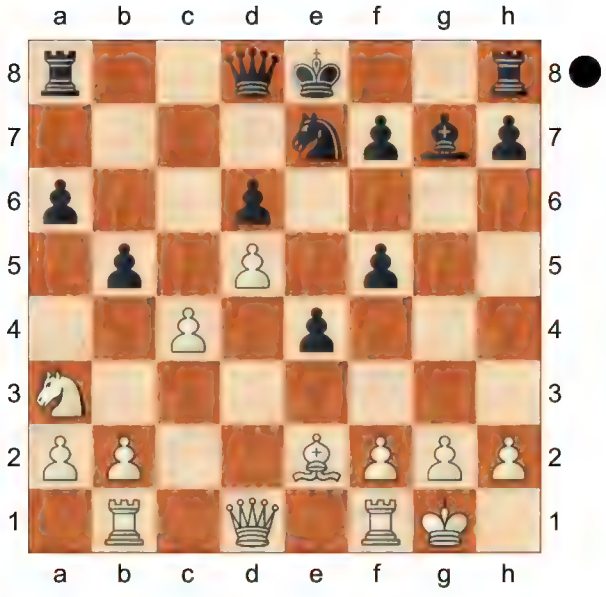
B1b1) 20...Rg8 21.Rfd1 Be5 22.Rxb8 Qxb8 23.Qxa6 f4 24.c5 Rg6 25.f3 (J. Feco - R. Fass, corr. 2008) *(25.c6 f3 26.Bxf3 exf3 27.g3 Qb2 28.Ne3 Bf4 29.Nf1 Qc2*= A. Santorelli - S. Fedorov, corr. 2010 *)* 25...dxc5 26.Qc4 e3 27.Qxc5 Qb2=;

B1b2) 20...Ng6

B1b21) 21.Ne3 f4 22.Qc2 Qf6 23.Nd1 f3 24.Rxb2 *(24.Bxf3 exf3 25.Rxb2 Rxb2 26.Qxb2 Kg7 27.Qxf6+ Kxf6 28.Ne3 fxg2 29.Kxg2 Rb8=)* 24...Rxb2 25.Qxb2 Qxb2 26.Nxb2 fxe2 27.Re1 Kg7 28.Rxe2 Rb8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. V. Kotronias - A. Shirov, Mallorca 2004;

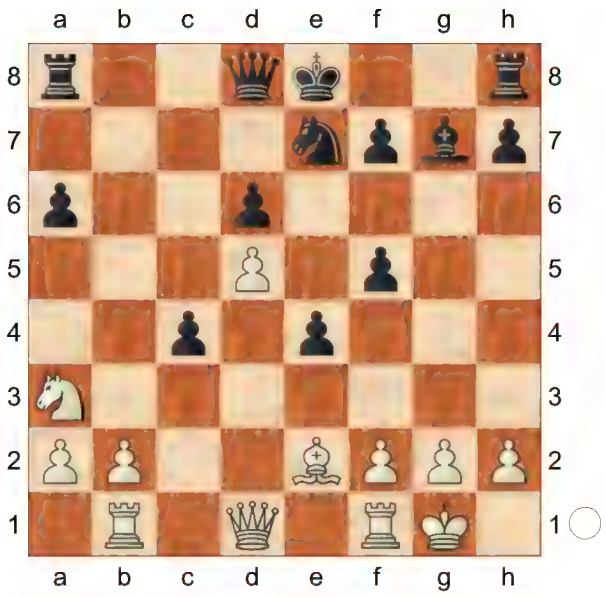
B1b22) 21.Nb4 Qf6 22.Nc6 Re8 23.f4 *(23.Qc2 Be5* (Shredder 8 - Deep Fritz 8, Internet (blitz) 2004) *24.Rb3 Rg8 25.g3 h5=)* 23...Bd4+ 24.Kh1 Kg7 25.Bh5 Bc5= 1/2-1/2 P. Leko - V. Kramnik, Linares 2003;

B2) 16.Rb1 [Chapter]



B2a) 16...bxc4 [Chapter]

(Diagram)



17.Nxc4 0-0

B2a1) 18.Qd2 Ng6 19.f4 a5 *(19...exf3 20.Rxf3 f4 21.b4 Ne5 22.Rh3 Nxc4 23.Bxc4 Be5 24.Kh1 f5 25.a4± A. Areshchenko - Wang Yue, Lausanne 2006)* 20.Rfd1 Qc7 21.g3 Ne7 22.Bf1 a4 23.Ne3 Rfb8 24.Bh3 Qd7 25.Kh1 Rb7 26.Qe2 Rab8=;

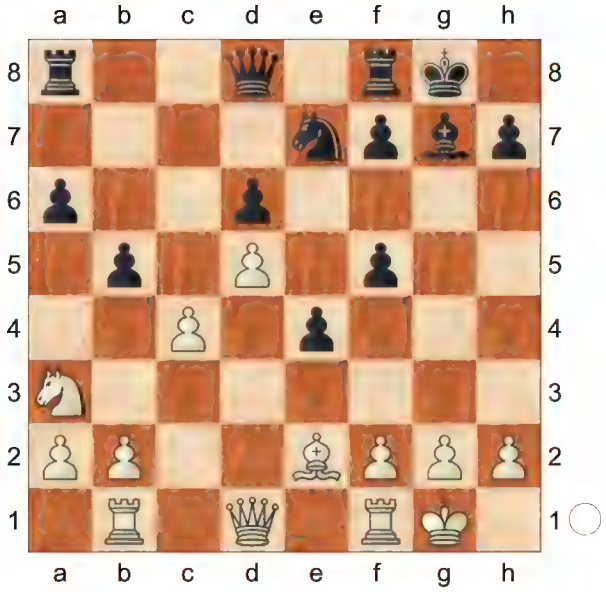
B2a2) 18.f4?!

B2a21) 18...Rb8 19.Qd2 *(19.Kh1?! Rb5 20.Ne3 Rxb2 21.Rxb2 Bxb2 22.Qd2 Bg7 23.Rb1 Qc7 24.Bxa6 Rb8∓* V. Ivanchuk - J. Lautier, Odessa 2006 *)* 19...Rb5 20.Ne3 Rc5 *(20...Qb6* (H. Stefansson - M. Krasenkow, Gausdal 1991) *21.Bxb5 Bd4 22.Rfe1 Nxd5 23.Kh1 Nxe3 24.Be2 d5=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. *)* 21.Bc4 Qb6∓;

B2a22) 18...a5 19.Qd2 Qb8 20.Kh1 Rc8 21.b4 axb4 22.Rxb4 Qa7∓ A. Areshchenko - Wang Yue, Lausanne 2006;

B2a3) 18.f3 Rc8 *(18...Rb8 19.Kh1 Rb5 20.Qc2 Nxd5 21.fxe4 Nb4 22.Qa4 fxe4 23.Ne3±* White has more than adequate compensation for material deficit. Z. Efimenko - A. Moiseenko, Zlatibor 2006 *)* 19.b4 (Amyan 1.597 - Anaconda 2.0.1, Internet 2006) Ng6 20.Kh1 Re8 21.f4 Ne7 22.Rb3 Qc7 23.a4 Rb8=;

B2b) 16...0-0 [Chapter]



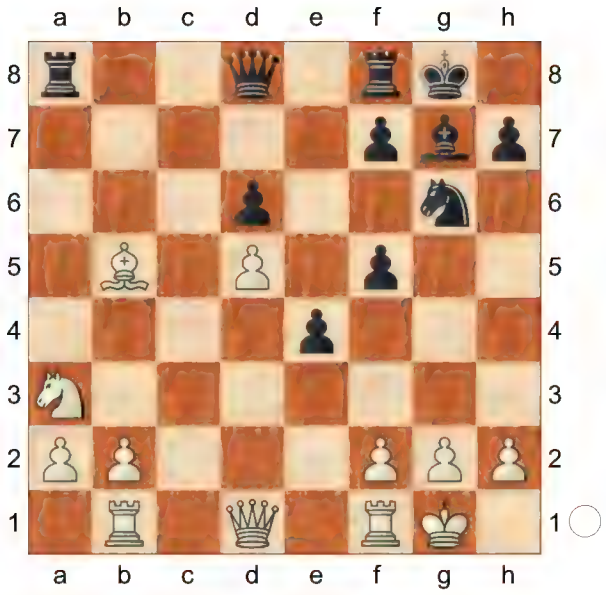
17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxb5

B2b1) 18...Ng6 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

19.Bc6 Ra7

B2b11) 20.f4 Ne7 21.Kh1 *(21.Qb3 Qa5*



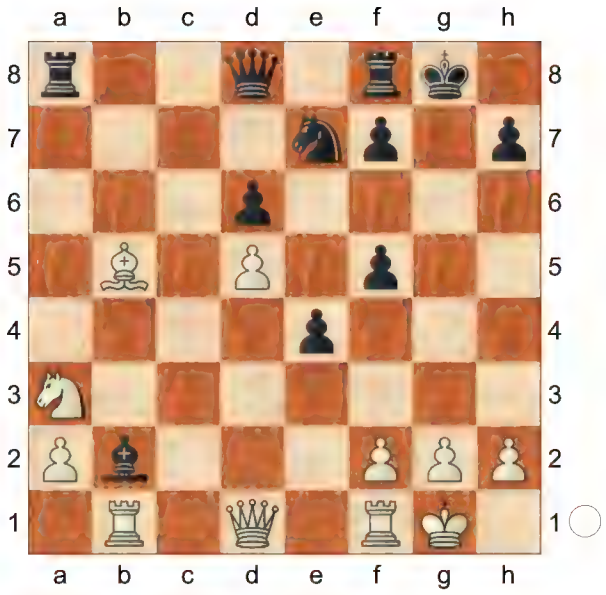
22.Rbc1 Bxb2 23.Qxb2 Qxa3 24.Qf6 Rb8=) 21...Qb6 *(21...Nxc6 22.dxc6 Rc7 23.Qd5 Qa8 24.Nb5 Rxc6 25.Nxd6 Rb6 26.Nxf5 Qxd5 27.Ne7+ Kh8 28.Nxd5 Rxb2 29.Rxb2 Bxb2 30.g4±* T. Luther - P. Tregubov, Istanbul 2003 *)* 22.Nc4 Qc5 23.Rc1 Rxa2 24.Qb3 Ra6=;

B2b12) 20.Qb3 f4 21.Nb5 Re7 22.Kh1 Re5 23.Qh3 Qf6 24.Nc3 Ne7 *(24...f3 25.gxf3 Nf4 26.Qg3 Qh6=)* 25.Rbd1 Qg6 26.Ne2 Bh6 27.f3 Nf5= Key game G. Milos - M. Krasenkow, Tripoli 2004;

B2b2) 18...Bxb2 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

19.Nc4 *(19.Rxb2 Rxa3 20.Qd2 Ng6 21.Qb4 Ra7*



22.a4 Qf6= Rybka 2.1d3 - Rybka 2.2, Internet (blitz) 2006 *)* 19...Bg7 20.a4

B2b21) 20...Ng6 21.Qh5 Qf6 22.Ne3 f4 23.Nf5 Ne7 24.Bd7 Ra7 25.Nxe7+ Qxe7 26.Bf5 h6 27.Rb4 Rfa8 28.Qd1 Qe5 29.Bxe4 Qc3 30.Rb3 Qc4 31.Qf3 Rxa4= A. Areshchenko - A. Shirov, Sochi 2006;

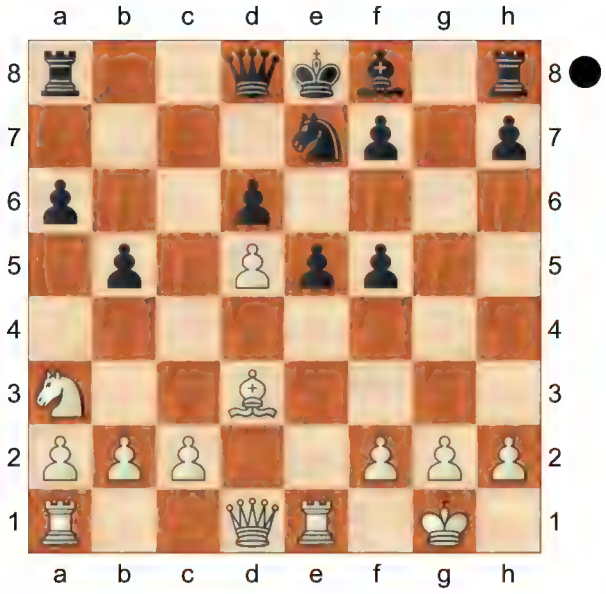
B2b22) 20...f4 21.Qd2 *(21.Kh1 f5 22.Bc6 Ra7 23.a5 Ng6 24.Rb7 Rxb7 25.Bxb7* (F. Nijboer - L. Van Wely, Leeuwarden 2003) *f3 26.gxf3 Qh4 27.a6 Ne5 28.Nxe5 Bxe5 29.f4 Bxf4 30.Rg1+ Kf7 31.Rg2 Rg8=)* 21...Rc8 22.Rfe1 f5 23.Qxf4 Nxd5 24.Qxd6 Nc3 25.Rb3 Kh8 26.Qxd8 Rfxd8 27.Ne3±;

B2b23) 20...Qc7 21.Qd2 Rxa4 22.Bxa4 Qxc4

23.Bc6 Qd4 24.Qg5 Qf6 25.Qxf6 Bxf6 26.Rb7± P. Leko - V. Topalov, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2003;

B2b24) 20...Rc8 21.a5 Rc5 22.Nb6 Qc7 23.Qd2 Rb8 24.Rbc1 Ng6 25.Bc6 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Qe7 27.Re1 Be5 28.Bb5 h5 29.Bf1 Bf4 30.Qc3 h4= Mapi - Heffalump, corr. 2008]

[14.Re1 [Chapter]



A) 14...e4 15.Bf1 Bg7 16.c3 0-0 17.Nc2 *(17.Qh5*= - 14... Bg7 15. c3 O-O 16. Qh5 e4 17. Bf1 *)* 17...Re8 18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 *(19.Ne3 Rb8 20.Nc4 a5 21.Rxa4 Rb5 22.Qa1 Rxd5 23.Nxa5 Re5 24.Qa3 Re6 25.Rd1 d5*= Houdini 2.0c Pro - Houdini 2.0c Pro, Internet (blitz) 2012 *)* 19...Qb6 20.Rb4 Qc7 21.Ne3 a5 22.Rc4 Qd7= Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011;

B) 14...Bg7

B1) 15.Rb1 0-0 16.c4 e4 *(16...f4?! 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxb5 f5 19.Nc4 e4 20.a4 f3 21.gxf3 Ng6 22.fxe4 Qh4 23.Qf3 fxe4 24.Qg3±* V. Anand - L. Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2005 *)* 17.Bf1 Ng6 18.cxb5 *(18.b4 Be5 19.Qh5 Qf6 20.Re3 h6*= C. Lutz - A. Moiseenko, Plovdiv 2003 *)* 18...axb5 19.Bxb5 Qg5 20.Re3 Be5 *(20...Nh4?! 21.Rg3 Qh6 22.Rh3 Kh8 23.Bf1 f4 24.Nb5±* K. Asrian - A. Volokitin, Ermioni Argolidas 2005*; 20...Ne5 21.Rg3 Qf4 22.Bc6 Ra5 23.Qe1 Nxc6 24.dxc6 Rc5 25.b4 Rxc6 26.b5 Rc5*= A. Dyakov - T. Rattinger, corr. 2005 *)* 21.Bc6 Ra7 22.Nc4 Bf4 23.Rh3 Rxa2 24.Rh5 Qg4 25.Qxg4 fxg4 26.g3 Ne5 27.Nxe5 Bxe5= D. Helbich - R. Leemans, corr. 2004;

B2) 15.c3

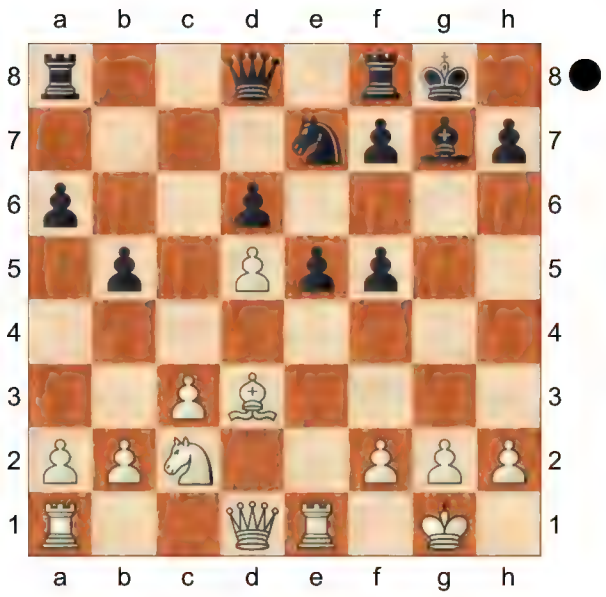
B2a) 15...Qc8 16.Nc2 0-0 17.a4 e4 18.Bf1 bxa4 19.Ne3 Qb7 *(19...Rb8 20.Nc4 Rd8 21.Rxa4 Rb5 22.Qa1 Qb8 23.Rxa6 Rxd5 24.Qa2 Rc5 25.Nxd6 Rd5 26.Nc4±* Y. Quesada Perez - F. Corrales Jimenez, Havana 2005 *)* 20.Nc4 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 Nxd5 22.Red1 Nc7 23.Rxd6± V. Kramnik - P. Leko, Monte Carlo (blindfold) 2004;

B2b) 15...0-0 Recommenda tion for club level players:

B2b1) 16.Nc2 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

B2b11) 16...Qd7 17.g3



(17.a4 e4 18.Bf1 bxa4 19.Nb4 a5 20.Nc6 Nxc6 21.Bb5 Qb7 22.Bxc6 Qxb2 23.Bxa8 Rxa8 24.Qxa4 Qxc3 25.Rac1 Qe5= L. Dominguez Perez - R. Felgaer, Cuernavaca 2006 *)* 17...Nxd5 18.Qh5 Ne7 19.Ne3 e4 20.Nxf5 Nxf5 21.Bxe4 Nh6 22.Bxa8 Rxa8 23.Re4 *(23.Qd5 Rb8 24.Rad1 Rd8 25.Qg5 Kf8 26.Rd5 Ng8 27.Red1 Ne7 28.Rxd6 Qxd6 29.Rxd6 Rxd6 30.Qf4±* V. Kurgansky - N. Poleshchuk, corr. 2010 *)* 23...d5 24.Rd1 f5 25.Re2 d4 26.cxd4 Rf8 27.d5± Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5, Internet (blitz) 2011;

B2b12) 16...f4 17.a4

B2b121) worse move is Updated on May 6, 2014 17...bxa4 18.Nb4 f5 19.Rxa4 *(19.Nc6 Qc7 20.Qxa4 f3 21.Qc4 Qd7 22.g3 Kh8 23.Ra5±* (weakness a6) Houdini 2.0c - Houdini 2.0c Pro, Internet (blitz) 2012 *)* 19...Ng6 20.Rxa6 Rxa6 21.Bxa6 Qg5 22.f3 Kh8 23.Kh1 Bf6 24.Qc2± Black has insufficient compensation for material deficit. A. Volokitin - A. Moiseenko, Kiev 2013;

B2b122) 17...f5 18.Bf1 *(18.axb5 e4 19.Bf1 axb5 20.Rxa8 Qxa8 21.Qd2 Ng6 22.Na3 b4 23.cxb4 Qa7 24.Nb5 Qe7 25.Ra1 Be5 26.Ra6 Qh4*= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011 *)* 18...bxa4 19.Nb4 e4 20.Rxa4 Ng6 21.Nc6 Qg5 22.Kh1 f3 23.g3 Ne5= Houdini 2.0c - Houdini 2.0c, Internet 2011;

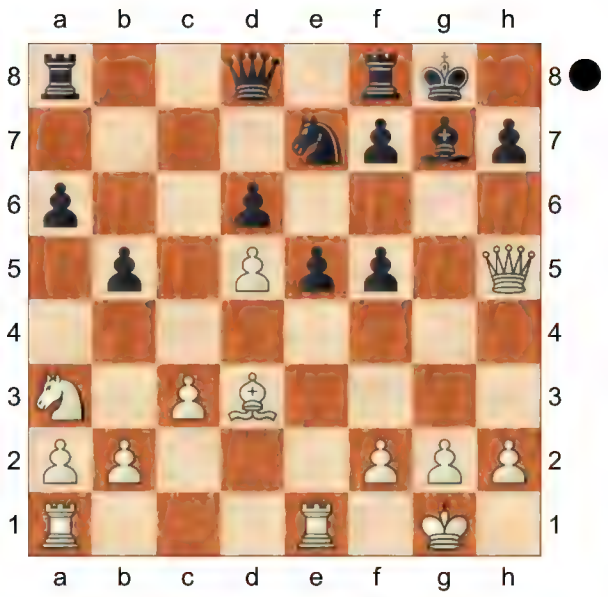
B2b2) 16.Qh5 [Chapter]

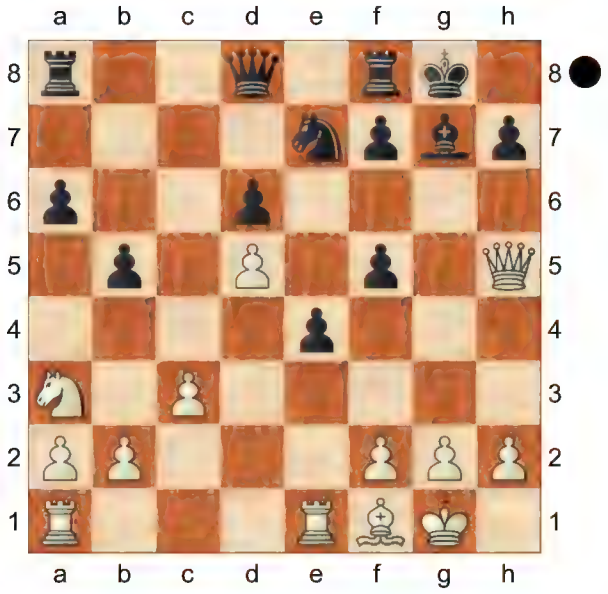
(Diagram)

16...e4 17.Bf1

B2b21) [Chapter]

(Diagram)





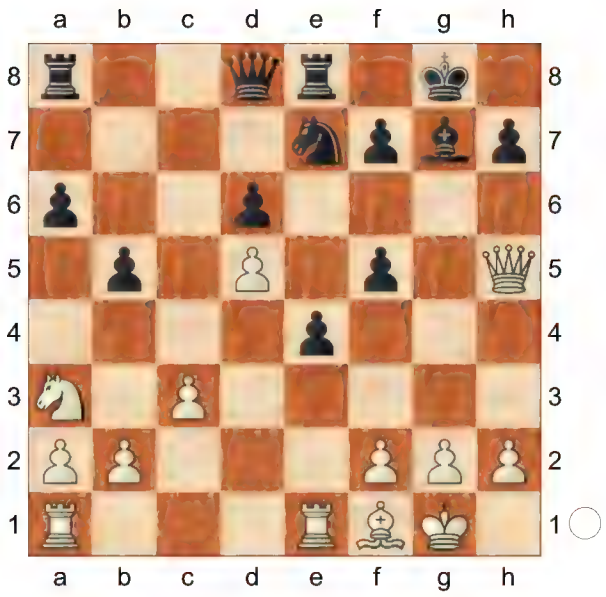
17...Qc8 18.Rad1 Ng6 *(18...Re8*= - 17... Re8 18. Rad1 Qc8 *)* 19.g3 *(19.Nc2 Re8*= - 17... Re8 18. Rad1 Qc8 19. Nc2 Ng6 *)* 19...Re8 20.Bh3 Re5 21.Nc2

B2b211) 21...Qc4?! 22.Ne3 Qxa2 23.Qe2 b4 *(23...f4? 24.Ra1 Qb3 25.Ra3 Qxa3 26.bxa3 fxe3 27.Qxe3 Ne7 28.Qb6 Nxd5 29.Qxd6 Nxc3 30.Qc6 Ree8 31.Re3 Na4 32.Rxe4*+- F. Balabaev - A. Kristjansson, corr. 2006 *)* 24.cxb4 Rb8 25.Bxf5 Ne7 26.Bd7 Rxb4 27.Ra1 Qxb2 28.Qxb2 Rxb2 29.Nc4± Rybka 3 - Rybka 3 Dynamic, Internet (blitz) 2008;

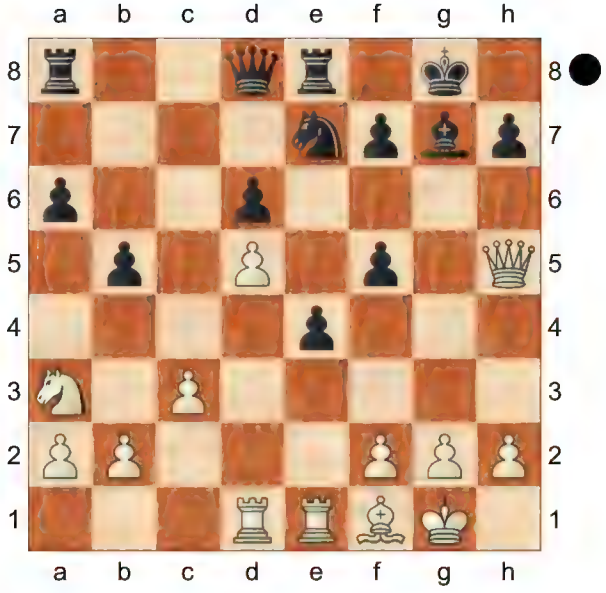
B2b212) 21...Ne7 22.Ne3 Qd7 23.Kh1 Re8 24.Rf1 h6 25.f4 exf3 26.Qxf3 Rxe3 27.Qxe3 Nxd5 28.Qf3 Ne3 29.Bxf5 Qd8 30.Be4 Nxd1 31.Rxd1 Qe7 32.Bd5± I. Yagupov - S. Yudin, Tomsk 2004;

B2b22) 17...Qd7 18.Rad1 Rab8 *(18...Ng6?! 19.g3 b4 20.cxb4 Rab8 21.Nc4 Rfe8 22.Bh3 Qc7 23.b3 f4 24.a3*+- A. Motylev - A. Shariyazdanov, Kazan 2005*; 18...b4?! 19.cxb4 Rab8 20.b3 Rxb4 21.Nc4 a5 22.g3 a4 23.Bh3 axb3 24.axb3 Rxb3 25.Rxe4±* Rybka 1.1 - Rybka 1.1, Internet (blitz) 2006 *)* 19.Nc2 Rfe8 (J. Pihlajamaki - J. Ramsden, corr. 2011) 20.g3 b4 21.cxb4 Bxb2 22.Bh3 Qc7 23.Re2 f4 24.Qg4+ Ng6 25.gxf4±;

B2b23) 17...Re8 [Chapter]



B2b231) 18.Nc2
B2b2311) 18...Rc8
19.Ne3 f4 20.Nc2!
(20.Nf5 Nxf5 21.Qxf5 Qf6 22.Qxf6 Bxf6=
K. Mekhitarian - Wang Yue, Beijing (blitz) 2008 *)*
20...Ng6 21.a4 Re5 22.Qh3 f3 23.g3 Rxd5 24.axb5 Rd2 25.Rac1 axb5 26.Rxe4±;
B2b2312) 18...Nxd5
19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qg4
B2b23121) 20...h5
21.Qd1 Qg5 22.a4 b4 23.cxb4 h4
(23...e3 24.fxe3 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 Rxe3 26.Ra3 Rxe1 27.Qxe1 Qe5 28.Qxe5 dxe5 29.Re3±
A. Shpakovsky - G. Ferlito, corr. 2010 *)*
24.Ne3 Nxe3 25.fxe3 d5 26.b5±;
B2b23122) 20...f5
21.Qd1 *(21.Qh3 Nb6 22.Rad1 f4 23.Be2 d5 24.g3 Qf6=* M. Rummele - W. Blank, corr. 2007 *)* 21...Nb6
(21...Kh8 22.a4 bxa4 23.Rxa4 Qb6 24.Rd4±
S. Karjakin - R. Felgaer, Dos Hermanas 2005 *)*
22.Qd2 d5 23.Nd4 Qf6 24.f4 Ree8 25.Rad1 Nc4 26.Qf2 Rab8=
R. Dzenis - D. Korze, corr. 2009;
B2b232) 18.Rad1
B2b2321) [Chapter]



18...Rc8 19.Nc2 Rc5 20.Rd2
(20.Ne3 f4 21.Nf5 Nxf5 22.Qxf5 Qf6

23.Qxf6 Bxf6 24.Bd3 e3= A. Roca - K. Sakai, corr. 2004 *)* 20...Qc8 *(20...Qb8 21.Red1 f4 22.Qg4 Ng6 23.Nb4 Qb7=* M. Menetrier - M. Oliveira, corr. 2009 *)* 21.Red1 *(21.g3?! Rxd5 22.Red1 Rxd2 23.Rxd2* (G. Milos - R. Felgaer, Santos 2005) *Qe6 24.Ne3 d5 25.Bh3 Qh6∓)* 21...f4 22.g3 Ng6 23.Bh3 Qd8 24.Bf5 Qf6 25.gxf4 Bh6 26.Qxh6 Qxf5 27.Ne3 Qxf4= P. Cutillas Ripoll - J. Stephan, corr. 2007;

B2b2322) 18...Qa5 19.Qg5 *(19.g4 Kh8 20.Bg2 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxa3 22.Qxf7 Qxc3 23.gxf5 Rg8 24.Qxe7 Rxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Rg8+ 26.Kf1 Qh3+ 27.Ke2 Qf3+ 28.Kf1 Qh3+=* 1/2-1/2 K. Thurlow - L. Mauro, corr. 2005 *)* 19...Qa4 20.Rd2 Rac8 *(20...Ng6 21.Qxf5 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Re5 23.Qf6 Qxa3 24.Re3±* A. Delchev - L. McShane, Cannes 2005 *)* 21.Re3 b4 22.Nc4 h6 23.Qh5 bxc3 24.Rxc3 e3 25.fxe3 Bxc3 26.Nxd6 Bxd2 (1/2-1/2 A. Trana - T. Rattinger, corr. 2009) 27.Qxf7+ Kh8 28.Qf6+ Kh7 29.Qf7+ Kh8=;

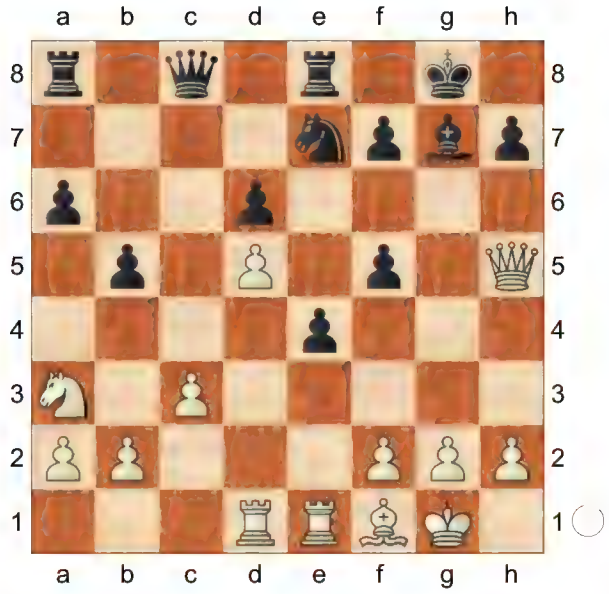
B2b2323) 18...Ng6 19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qh3 Nf4 *(20...Qf6 21.g3 Qg5 22.Bg2 f5 23.Nc2 Rae8 24.Nb4 f4 25.Nc6 Rxd5 26.Qd7±* I. Smikovski - P. Tregubov, Novokuznetsk 2008 *)*

B2b23231) 21.Qg4 Nxd5 22.c4 *(22.f4 Nf6 23.Qe2 Rc5 24.Nc2 Qb6 25.Kh1±* C. Lutz - M. Krasenkow, Mallorca 2004 *)* 22...Nc7 23.Nc2 f5 24.Qh3± A. Dyakov - P. Taboada, corr. 2005;

B2b23232) 21.Qg3 Qf6 22.c4 *(22.Nc2?! Kh8 23.Kh1* (E. Alekseev - P. Tregubov, Sochi 2005) *Rg8 24.Qe3 Bh6 25.Qd4 Nh3*

26.Re2 e3∓)
22...b4 *(22...Rg5 23.Qe3 Qf5*
(Rybka 2.2 - Rybka 2.2, Internet (blitz) 2007) *24.g3 Bxb2 25.cxb5 axb5 26.Nxb5 Be5 27.Qxe4±; 22...Rb8 23.Qb3 Nd3 24.Bxd3±)* 23.Nc2 a5 24.Qb3 Rae8 *(24...Qh6 25.g3 Nh3+ 26.Bxh3 Qxh3 27.Re2 Kh8 28.Nd4 Rg8 29.f4 Ree8 30.Nb5±*
V. Kurgansky - Y. Petrov, corr. 2006 *)*
25.Re3 Rh5 26.Rde1 Qh4 27.h3 Rf5 28.g3 Nxh3+ 29.Bxh3 Qxh3 30.Rxe4 Rxe4 31.Rxe4±;

B2b2324) 18...Qc8
[Chapter]



19.Nc2 Ng6

B2b23241) 20.Qh3 Re5 21.Nb4 Qc5 22.Qe3 Ne7 23.g3 Qxe3 24.fxe3 a5 25.Nc6 Nxc6 26.dxc6=
Black can maintain equality with accurate play. Z. Efimenko - P. Smirnov, Sochi 2005;

B2b23242) 20.Nd4 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Re5 22.Qh6 *(22.a4!? Rb8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Qh6±)* 22...Rb8 *(22...Qc5 23.h4 Rxd5 24.h5 Rxd4 25.cxd4 Qxd4 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.Qc1±*
L. Dominguez Perez - L. Van Wely, Mallorca 2004 *)* 23.g3 *(23.h4 Qf8 24.Qxf8+ Kxf8 25.g3 Re7 26.Re3 Ne5 27.Be2 a5 28.Kg2 Rc7=*
The position is objectively equal, although a touch more comfortable for Black. B. Vuckovic - M. Pavlovic, Kopaonik 2005 *)* 23...a5 24.h4 Qf8 25.Qd2 Qg7= Rybka 1.2n - Fritz 8, Internet (blitz) 2006;

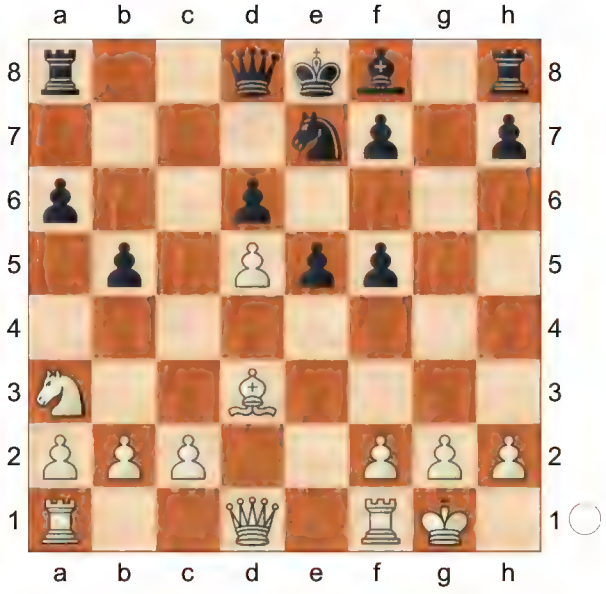
B2b23243) 20.Nb4 Ne5 *(20...h6?! 21.g3 Ne5 22.Bg2 Ra7 23.Nc6 Nxc6 24.dxc6 Qxc6 25.Qxf5 Rae7 26.Qd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 b4 28.cxb4 Bxb2 29.Rb1 Bc3 30.Bf1 Rb8 31.a3± S. Karjakin - Wang Yue, Tiayuan 2005)*

B2b232431) 21.h3 Rb8 22.Nc2 *(22.a4?! bxa4 23.Bxa6 Qd7 24.Ra1 Kh8 25.Qd1 Rg8 26.Kh1 Qd8 27.Rxa4 Qh4∓* Black has the attack. Rybka 1.01 Beta - Rybka 1.01 Beta, Internet (blitz) 2006 *)* 22...Ng6 23.Nb4= Key game 1/2-1/2 V. Bologan - V. Kramnik, Dortmund 2003;

B2b232432) 21.Nc2 (with the idea Nd4) Ng6=;

B2b232433) 21.Nc6 Nxc6 22.dxc6 Qxc6 23.Qxf5 Re5 24.Qf4 d5 25.Re3 *(25.f3?! f5 26.fxe4 fxe4 27.Qe3* (K. Kulaots - L. Van Wely, Liepaya 2004) *Rf8 28.Be2 Ref5 29.Bg4 Rf4∓)* 25...Qh6 26.Qxh6 Bxh6=]

[[Chapter]



14.Nxb5 Bg7 15.Nc3

A) 15...0-0 16.Qd2 e4 17.Be2= - 15... e4 16. Be2 O-O 17. Qd2 *(17.Bc4*= - 15... e4 16. Bc4 O-O 17. Qd2 *)*;

B) 15...e4

B1) 16.Be2 0-0 17.Qd2 Ng6 18.Kh1 Re8 19.Rae1 *(19.f4?! Qa5 20.g4 Rab8 21.gxf5 Rxb2 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.f5 Qxc3∓* Mil. Perunovic - B. Bogosavljevic, Kragujevac 2010 *)* 19...f4 20.Bh5 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qf6 22.Qd4 Qxd4 23.cxd4 Rac8= N. Ohlzon - J. Eriksson, Osterskan 1994;

B2) 16.Bc4

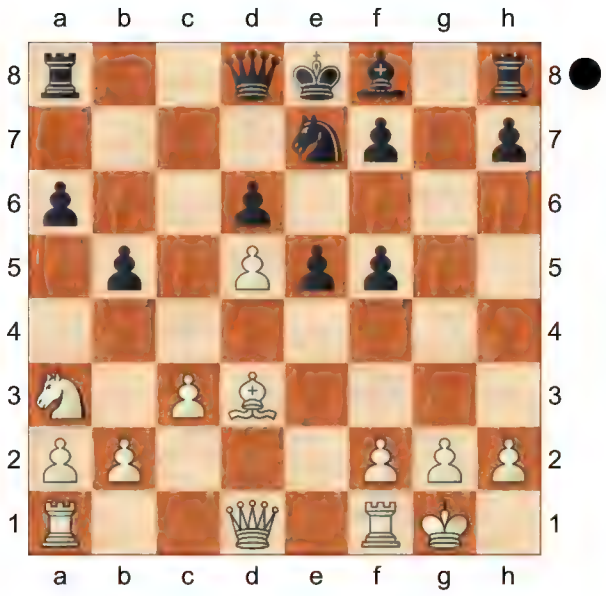
B2a) 16...0-0 17.Qd2 Ng6 18.Bb3 Be5 19.f4 Nxf4! 20.g3 *(20.Rxf4?! Qb6+ 21.Kh1 e3 22.Qd3 Bxf4 23.Qxf5 Be5∓)* 20...Bxc3

21.bxc3 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 e3 23.Qe1 Ng6 24.Rxf5 a5 25.a4 Rac8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. Deep Rybka 4 - Deep Rybka 4.1a, Internet 2010;

B2b) 16...Qa5 17.Qd2 *(17.Ne2 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Be5 19.Qc1 Rc8 20.Bb3 Rg8 21.f3 Nxd5 22.Kh1 Rg6 23.fxe4 fxe4 24.Rf5* (V. Anand - Z. Polgar, Munich 1991) *Rc7 25.Ng3 Nf6 26.Qf1*= White has sufficient compensation for material deficit. *)* 17...Rc8 18.Bb3 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rg8 20.Qf4 Qxc3 21.f3 exf3 22.Qxf3 Qd4+ 23.Kh1 Rc3 24.Qe2 Qe4 25.Qd2 Re3 26.Bc4 Rg5 27.Rab1 Kf8 28.Qf2 Ng6 29.Bxa6 Nh4 30.Rg1 Ng6 31.Bd3 Qe5 32.Rge1± Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011;

B2c) 16...Ng6 17.Qh5 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qf6 19.Qh6 *(19.Rae1 Rg8 20.f4 Kf8 21.Re3 Rc8 22.Bb3 Rxc3 23.Rxc3 Qxc3 24.g3 a5∓* (Bb3 is a poorly-placed piece.) J. Ehlvest - L. Van Wely, Moscow 2004 *)* 19...Qxc3 20.Bb3 Ke7 21.Rae1 a5 22.a4 Rhg8 23.Kh1 Qf6 24.f3 Nh4 25.Qxf6+ Kxf6 26.fxe4 Rxg2 27.Rxf5+ Nxf5 28.Kxg2 Rg8+ 29.Kf3 Nh4+ 30.Ke2 Ke5= G. Toro Solis de Ovando - P. Cutillas Ripoll, corr. 2004]

[14.Qh5 e4 15.Be2 Bg7 16.c3= - 14. c3 Bg7 15. Qh5 e4 16. Be2]



14...Bg7

[14...Qd7

A) 15.Qh5 Rg8 16.Rfd1 *(16.Kh1 Rg6 17.Rad1 Bg7 18.Bb1 Kf8*= V. Kotronias - M. Krasenkow, Pula 1997*; 16.Rad1 Rg6 17.Bb1 Bg7 18.Nc2 Kf8 19.Kh1 Kg8 20.Ne3 e4 21.f4 Kh8 22.Qe2* (Z. Almasi - D. Rogozenco, Yerevan 1996) *Rg8 23.g4 fxg4 24.f5 Rf6 25.Nxg4 Rxf5 26.Qxe4 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 f5 28.Qd3 Qe8 29.Ne3 Qh5 30.Nxf5 Be5 31.Rf2 Qg5 32.Ng3 Rg7=)* 16...Rg6 (D. Sime - F. Pinol Fulgoni, Balatonlelle 2001) 17.Bf1 Bg7 18.Nc2 Kf8 19.Nb4 e4 20.Qe2±;

B) 15.Nc2 Bg7 16.a4 e4 17.Be2 0-0 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd2 Qb7 20.Nb4 Ng6 21.Qe3 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Ra8 23.Rd1± V. Bologan - Ni Hua, Shanghai 2001]

[14...e4 15.Be2 *(15.Bc2 Bg7 16.Qh5*= - 14... Bg7 15. Qh5 e4 16. Bc2 *)* 15...Bg7 16.Nc2= - 14... Bg7 15. Nc2 e4 16. Be2]

15.Qh5 [Chapter]

[[Chapter]

15.Nc2

A) 15...0-0 16.a4

A1) worse move is 16...bxa4 17.Rxa4 Qb6 18.Ne3 e4 19.Nc4 Qc7 *(19...Qc5 20.Ra5 Qc7 21.Be2 Ng6* (M. Emelyanov - B. Scheuermann, corr. 2002) *22.Qd2 Ne5 23.Ra4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Qe7 25.Ra1±* (weakness a6) *)* 20.Bc2 Qc5 21.Qh5 Rab8 22.Rd1 h6 *(22...Rfc8 23.g4 fxg4 24.Bxe4 f5 25.Bxf5 Nxf5 26.Qxf5±* Y. Kryvoruchko - A. Salem, Fujairah City 2012 *)* 23.Rd2 Rb5 24.g4±;

A2) 16...e4 17.Be2= - 15... e4 16. Be2 O-O 17. a4;

B) 15...e4 16.Be2

B1) 16...Qb6

B1a) 17.a4 bxa4 18.Ne3 0-0 19.Nc4 Qc5 20.Rxa4 Rfb8 *(20...f4 21.Ra5 Qc7 22.Qa4±* Y. Zinchenko - S. Zhigalko, Moscow 2010 *)* 21.Ra5 Rb5 22.Ra2 a5 23.b4 Qc7 24.Nxa5 Rxd5 25.Qc2 Rb8 26.Nc4±;

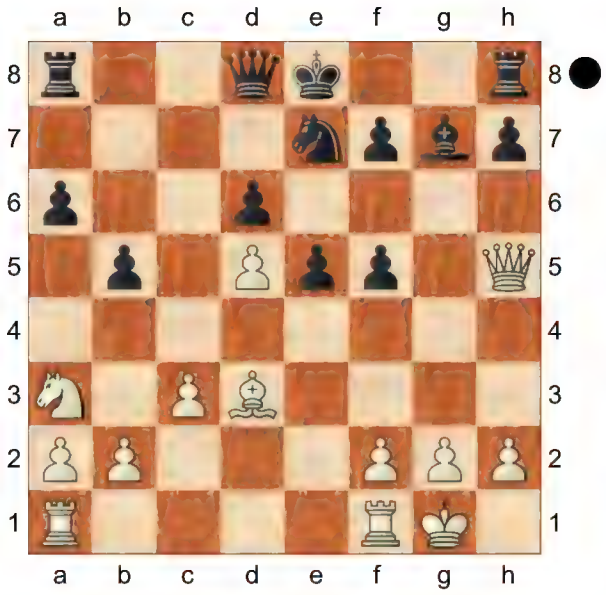
B1b) 17.Qd2 0-0 *(17...Rb8 18.Kh1 Qb7 19.Rad1 0-0 20.f3 Rbe8 21.Qg5 Nxd5 22.fxe4 Nf6 23.Nd4 Nxe4 24.Qxf5 Re5 25.Qh3 d5 26.Bd3±* Y. Narozhny - H. Dullemond, corr. 2005 *)* 18.Qg5 Qb7 *(18...Ng6 19.Qxf5 Rae8 20.Qg5 Re5 21.Qd2 Ne7 22.a4 Nxd5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Kh1 Nc7 25.f4 Rd5 26.Qc1 Rf5 27.g3 Re8 28.Qe3 Rc5 29.Rfd1±* K. Glaser - J. Kuta, corr. 2005 *)* 19.Ne3 h6 20.Qg3 Rad8 21.Rfe1 Rfe8 22.Bh5± Houdini 1.5a - Houdini 1.5a, Internet (blitz) 2011;

B2) 16...0-0 17.a4 bxa4 18.Rxa4 Qb6 19.Ra2 *(19.Rb4 Qc5 20.Ne3 Rab8 21.Qb3 Rxb4 22.cxb4 Qd4 23.Rd1 Qxb2 24.Qxb2 Bxb2 25.Bxa6 Ra8 26.Bf1=* 1/2-1/2 G. Hechl - R. Pommrich, corr. 2010 *)* 19...Qc5 20.Qd2 Nxd5 21.Rd1 Nc7 22.g3 *(22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Rad8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8=* B. Fagerstrom - J. Rhodes, corr. 2009 *)* 22...Rfd8 23.Qg5 Ne6 24.Qh5 f4 25.Rd5 Qb6 26.Rf5 Ra7 27.Bc4= White has sufficient compensation for material deficit. E. Jensen - G. Walters, corr. 2009]

[15.Re1= - 14. Re1 Bg7 15. c3]

(Diagram)

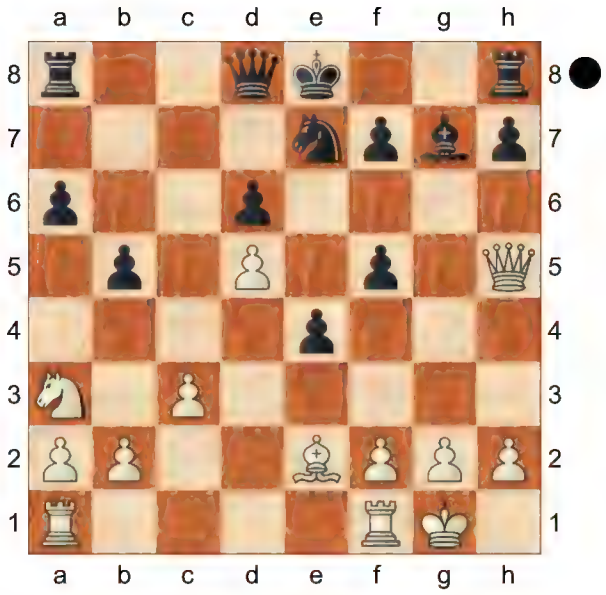
15...e4



[15...Qd7 16.Rad1 0-0 17.Bb1
A) 17...h6?!
A1) 18.f4 e4 19.Nc2 b4 *(19...a5 20.Kh1 b4 21.Ne3 bxc3 22.bxc3 Rfc8 23.c4±* G. Jones - Wang Yue, Liverpool 2007 *)* 20.Nxb4 Rfb8 21.Rf2 Rb5 22.Rfd2±;
A2) 18.g3 Rac8 19.Nc2 a5 20.Ne3 e4 21.Kh1± J. Howell - K. Arakhamia Grant, Isle of Man 1995;
B) 17...Rae8 18.Nc2 e4 19.Qh3 *(19.f4 Qa7+ 20.Kh1 Qc5 21.Rfe1 Nxd5 22.Qxf5 Nb6 23.Ne3 Qxf5 24.Nxf5 d5 25.a3±* A. Minasian - L. Van Wely, Khanty-Mansiysk 2005 *)* 19...a5 20.f3 Qc8 21.Nd4±]
16.Bc2 [Chapter]
[16.Be2 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

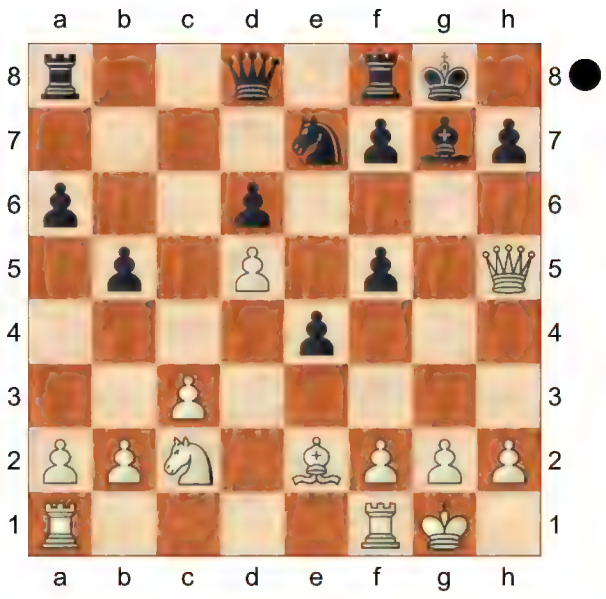
A) 16...Qd7 17.Rad1 Ng6 18.Rfe1 *(18.g3 0-0 19.Nc2 f4 20.Bg4 f5 21.Bh3 Rae8 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Re5*= M. Ortega Amarelle - J. Pelaez Contti, Migoya 1998 *)*



18...0-0 19.Nc2 f4 20.Bg4 f5 21.Bh3 Rae8 22.Nb4 a5 23.Nc6 b4 24.cxb4 axb4= Pharaon 3.5.1 - The King 3.50, Internet 2009;
B) 16...Rc8 17.Nc2 Rc5 18.Ne3 f4 19.Nf5 0-0 20.a4 Nxf5 21.Qxf5 Qe7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qxf4 Rxd5 24.Rfd1 Re5 25.Qe3± (weakness d6) P. Leko - V. Kramnik, Linares 2004;
C) 16...b4?! 17.cxb4 Bxb2 18.Rab1 Bxa3 19.Rb3 Bxb4 *(19...Qb6 20.Rfb1 h6 21.Rxa3 Kf8* (W. Kermer - B. Pohlig, corr. 2006) *22.b5 a5 23.Rc3±)* 20.Rxb4 Qa5 21.Rfb1 0-0 22.Qg5+ Ng6 23.h4± Rybka 2.3.1 - Fritz 9, Internet (blitz) 2007;
D) 16...0-0 17.Nc2
D1) [Chapter]

(Diagram)

17...f4
D1a) 18.Qg5 f5 19.Rfd1 *(19.Qxf4 Nxd5 20.Qd2 Nb6 21.Rad1 d5 22.Nb4 Qd6 23.Nxd5 Rfd8 24.c4 Nxd5*



25.cxd5 Rac8 26.b4 h6 27.a3 Rc3 28.Qa2 Rdc8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. E. Calhau - G. Poli, corr. 2008 *)* 19...f3 20.gxf3 Kh8 21.Kh1 Rg8 *(21...Be5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Qg3 Qd7 24.Qe3 Qb7 25.Qd2 Bg7 26.a4 bxa4 27.Ne3 Rab8 28.Nc4 Qd7 29.Qc2 Bh6 30.f3 Ng6=* Rybka 3 Dynamic - Rybka 3, Internet (blitz) 2009 *)* 22.Qe3 Ng6 23.Nd4 Be5 24.Nxf5 exf3 25.Qxf3 *(25.Bxf3 Qd7 26.Nh6 Rgf8 27.Bg4 Qb7 28.Nf5 b4 29.Qe4 Rae8 30.Qc2 Rf6 31.cxb4 Qf7 32.Ne3 Nh4=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. J. Geus - R. Pommrich, corr. 2010 *)* 25...Qf6 26.Bd3 Nh4 27.Qh5 Rg2 28.f4 Bxf4 29.Ng3 Qh6 30.Qxh6 Bxh6= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. A. Grischuk - M. Krasenkow, Germany 2003;

D1b) 18.f3 f5 *(18...Qb6+ 19.Kh1 e3 20.Qg5 Ng6 21.g3 f5 22.gxf4 Rae8 23.Bd3 Qc5 24.Bxf5 e2 25.Rg1 Qxd5 26.Bxg6 Qxf3+ 27.Qg2 Qxg2+ 28.Kxg2 hxg6 29.Kf3 Kh7 30.Rae1 Be5=* 1/2-1/2 R. Nikel - K. Frey Beckman, corr. 2003 *)* 19.fxe4 fxe4 20.Bg4

D1b1) 20...Kh8 21.Rae1 Be5 22.Be6 *(22.Rxe4 Nxd5* (D. Sadvakasov - V. Babula, Bled 2002) *23.Qh3 Qg5 24.Be6 Ne3 25.Nxe3 fxe3 26.Bf5 Rf7 27.g4 Raf8 28.Kh1 h5=)* 22...e3 23.Nb4 *(23.g3* (A. Shabalov - A. Moiseenko, Edmonton 2008) *Ng6 24.Bf5 Rf6 25.gxf4 Qg8 26.Bxg6 Rxg6+ 27.Kh1 Rf8 28.Nxe3 Rxf4=)* 23...a5 *(23...Ng6 24.Bf5 Qf6 25.Be4 Qg7 26.Nd3 Rae8 27.Re2 Rf6=* J. Schwarz - J. Kuta, corr. 2003 *)* 24.Rf3 Qe8 25.Qxe8=;

D1b2) 20...Qc7 21.Rae1 *(21.Rad1 Kh8 22.Nd4 Qc5 23.Kh1 Qxd5 24.Nf5 Qe5 25.Nxd6 Qxh5 26.Bxh5 e3=* A. Shabalov - M. Krasenkow, Port Erin 2006 *)* 21...Qc4 22.Be6+ Kh8 23.Qe2 Qxa2 24.Nb4 Qb3 25.Qxe4 Qxb2 26.Rf3 Rf6 27.Rb1 Qa3= D. Rozenberg - I. Pheby, corr. 2005;

D2) 17...Re8 18.Rad1 *(18.Rfd1*

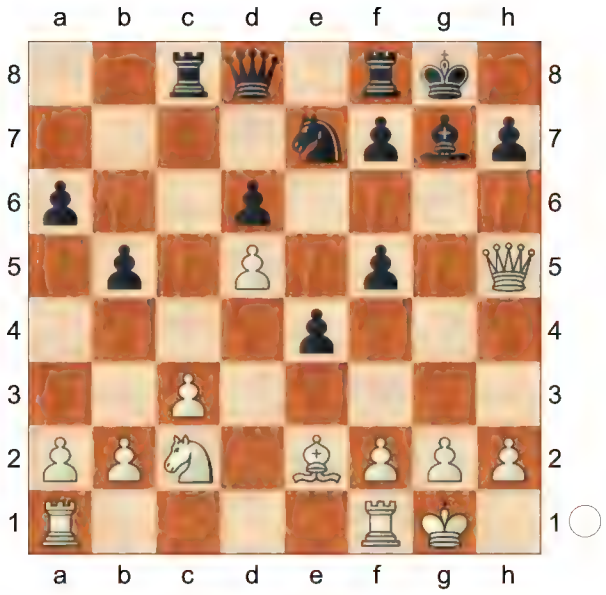
Ng6 19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qg4 f5 21.Qh3 Nf4 22.Qe3 Nxd5 23.Qd2 f4 24.Nd4 Qb6 25.Nf3 e3 26.Qd3 exf2+ 27.Kh1 Ne3 28.Nxe5 dxe5 29.Rd2 Rf8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. C. Hernaez Fernandez - E. Janosi, corr. 2004 *)* 18...Ng6 *(18...f4 19.Qg5 Ng6 20.Qxd8 Rexd8 21.Nd4 Bxd4 22.Rxd4 f5=* J. Staniszewski - M. Pirs, corr. 2008 *)* 19.f4 *(19.Qxf5 Re5 20.Qg4 f5 21.Qh3 Nf4 22.Qe3 Qg5 23.g3 Nxe2+ 24.Qxe2 f4 25.Rfe1 Rf8 26.Kh1 Qh6=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. Rybka 2.3.2a - Rybka, Internet (blitz) 2008 *)* 19...exf3 *(19...b4?! 20.Nxb4 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 a5 22.Nc2 Qxb2 23.Ne3 Qxc3 24.Nxf5 Qf6 25.Bb5 Rec8 26.Rde1±* P. Leko - L. Van Wely, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2004 *)* 20.Qxf3 f4 21.Bd3 Qg5 22.Bxg6 Qxg6 23.Ne1 Re4= A. Shirov - L. Van Wely, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2004;

D3) 17...Rc8 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

D3a) 18.Rad1 Rc5 19.Ne3 f4 20.Nf5 Ng6 *(20...Re8 21.Rfe1 Nxf5 22.Qxf5* (Rybka 3 - Fritz 10, Internet (blitz) 2010) *Qf6=)* 21.Rfe1 Re8 22.f3 e3 23.Bd3 Re5 24.Be4 (A. Shirov - A. Grischuk, Cap d'Agde 2003) Qb6 25.Kh1 b4=;

D3b) 18.Ne3 f4 *(18...Qd7*



19.g3 Rb8 20.Rab1 f4 21.gxf4 f5 22.Kh1 Kh8 23.Rg1 Rf6 24.Rg3 Qe8 25.Qh3 Rh6 26.Qg2 Qf8 27.Qg1 Bf6 28.f3 Bh4 29.Rg2 exf3 30.Bxf3 Ng6= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. E. Gindl - S. Dibley, corr. 2007 *)* 19.Nf5 Re8

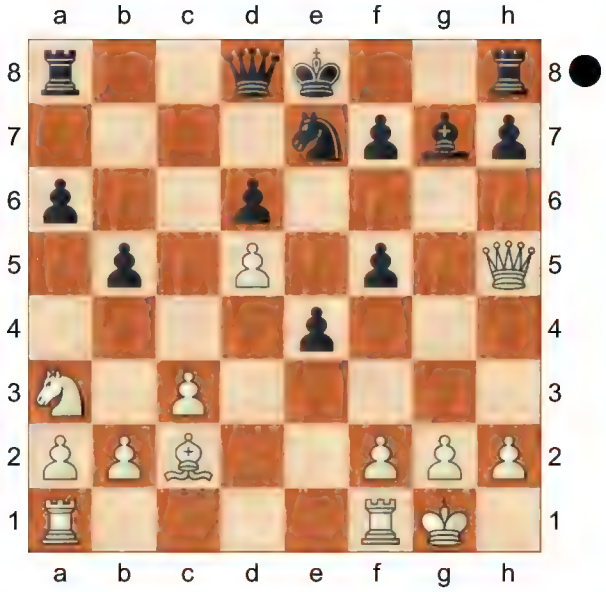
D3b1) 20.a4?! Ng6 21.axb5 axb5

D3b11) 22.Ra6 Bf8 23.Bxb5 Re5 24.Qh3 f3 25.g3 Rb8 26.c4 Qf6 27.Ne3 h5 28.Qd7 Rd8 29.Qc7 h4! 30.g4 *(30.Ng4 Qg5 31.Nxe5 Nxe5 32.Bc6 e3-+)* 30...Bh6 31.h3 Nf4 32.Kh2 Nd3-+ and Black has a decisive attack. D. Domanov - An. Kovacevic, corr. 2009;

D3b12) 22.Bxb5 Re5 23.Qh3 Rb8 24.c4 Qf6 25.Nxg7 (S. Karjakin - P. Leko, Dortmund 2004)

Qxg7 26.Kh1 Rg5 27.Rae1 f3 28.gxf3 Nf4 29.Qh4 Ng2 30.Qxe4 Nxe1 31.Rxe1 Qxb2∓;

D3b2) 20.Bg4 Rc4 *(20...Rc5 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Rae1 Qe5 23.Bf5 Qxd5 24.Rxe4 Rxe4 25.Qxh7+ Kf8 26.Bxe4 Qxa2 27.Qh4 Be5 28.g3±* N. Short - A. Shirov, Sarajevo 2004) 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Rae1 Qf6 23.Bf5 h6 24.b3 Rxc3 25.Rxe4 Rxe4 26.Bxe4 Qe5 27.Qxe5 Bxe5= Key game S. Karjakin - P. Leko, Dortmund 2004]



16...0-0

[16...Qc8 17.Rad1 *(17.Rae1 0-0=* - 16... O-O 17. Rae1 Qc8) 17...Qc5

A) 18.Bb1 b4 19.cxb4 Qxb4 20.Nc2 Qxb2 21.Ne3 Qf6 22.f3 Bh6 23.Rfe1 Bxe3+ 24.Rxe3 Ng6 25.Qh6 Ke7 26.fxe4 *(26.Rf1 Rab8=* Z. Almasi - M. Krasenkow, Pula 1997) 26...f4 27.Rf3 Rab8 28.e5 Nxe5 29.Qxf6+ Kxf6 30.Rxf4+ Kg7= B. Vuckovic - A. Tzermiadianos, Chania 1999;

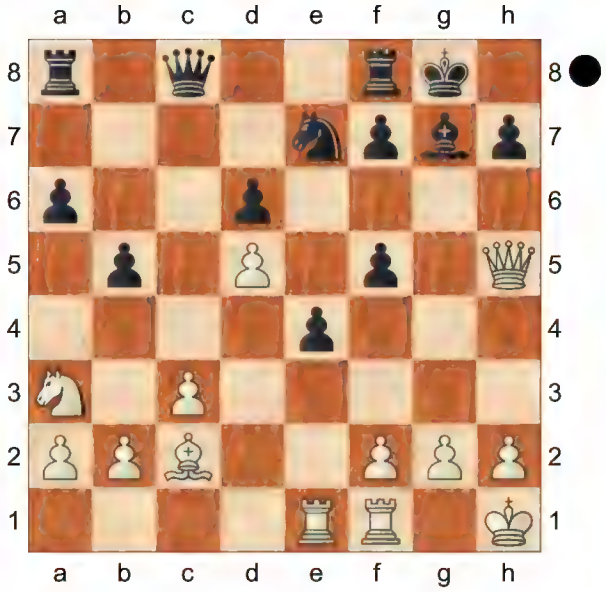
B) 18.Nb1 0-0 19.Rfe1 Rfe8 20.Nd2 Qc8 21.g4 Nxd5 22.Qxf5 Qxf5 23.gxf5 Nf4 24.Nxe4 d5 25.Nc5 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1

B1) 26...d4 27.Re4 dxc3 28.bxc3 *(28.Rxf4 cxb2 29.f6 Rc8 30.Rg4 Rxc5 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Bxh7 b1Q+ 33.Bxb1 Rc1+ 34.Kg2 Rxb1=* Black can equalize with relative ease. N. Moiseev - A. Razumikhin, corr. 2009) 28...Rc8 29.Nxa6 Rc4 30.Kf1±;

B2) 26...b4 27.cxb4 Bxb2 28.Re3± A. Krzyzanowski - G. Ruggeri Laderchi, corr. 2003]

17.Rae1 Qc8 18.Bb3 [Chapter]

[18.Kh1 [Chapter]



A) 18...Ng6 [Chapter]

(Diagram)

A1) 19.f4 b4

A1a) 20.cxb4 Bxb2 21.Re3 Ra7! *(21...Bxa3 22.Rh3 Re8 23.Qxh7+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Kg8=*

1/2-1/2 A. Galkin - V. Filippov, Tomsk 2001 *)* 22.Bd1 f6 23.Qe2 Bc1 24.Rg3 Rc7∓;

A1b) 20.Nb1 Rb8 21.g4 bxc3 22.gxf5 Rxb2 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Qd1 Re8= Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit.;

A2) 19.Bb1

A2a) 19...b4 20.cxb4 Bxb2 21.Nc2 Bc3 22.Re2 Bg7 23.g3 *(23.f4 exf3 24.Qxf3 f4 25.Ne1 Qc4 26.Qe4 Rfc8=* P. Leko - M. Krasenkow, Batumi 1999 *)* 23...Re8 24.Ne3 Re5 25.f4 exf3 26.Rc2 *(26.Qxf3 Qc3 27.Bxf5 Rae8 28.Bxg6 fxg6 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.Nd1 Qc8 31.Rxe5 Rxe5=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. White has poor knight placement. L. Wearstad - L. Mauro, corr. 2001 *)* 26...Qb7 27.Qxf3 Qxb4 28.Rcf2 Rb8 29.Nxf5 Re1=;

A2b) 19...Re8

A2b1) 20.f3 b4 21.cxb4 Bxb2 22.fxe4 *(22.Nc2 Bc3 23.Re2 Qc4 24.fxe4 Rxe4 25.Ref2 Re5 26.Qh3 f4=* V. Bologan - V. Filippov, Tomsk 2001 *)* 22...Bxa3 23.Re3 Bb2 24.Rh3 Bf6 25.exf5 Ne5 26.Qh6 Nd7 27.Rg3+ Kh8 28.Rh3 Kg8= 1/2-1/2 P. Van der Houwen - S. Peschardt, corr. 2004;

A2b2) 20.Nc2 Nf4 21.Qg5 Nxd5 22.Nd4

A2b21) 22...Ne7 23.f3 *(23.g4 fxg4 24.Bxe4 Ra7 25.Rg1 Ng6 26.Nf5 Re5 27.Qxg4 Qe6 28.Re2 Rc7 29.Qf3 d5 30.Bd3 Rxe2 31.Bxe2±* S. Teichmeister - F. Schroeder, corr. 2001 *)* 23...d5 24.g4 fxg4 25.fxe4 Ng6 26.Nf5 Re5 27.Qxg4 Qe6 28.Bc2 Re8 29.Re3± B. Weegenaar - C. Chambers, corr. 2002;

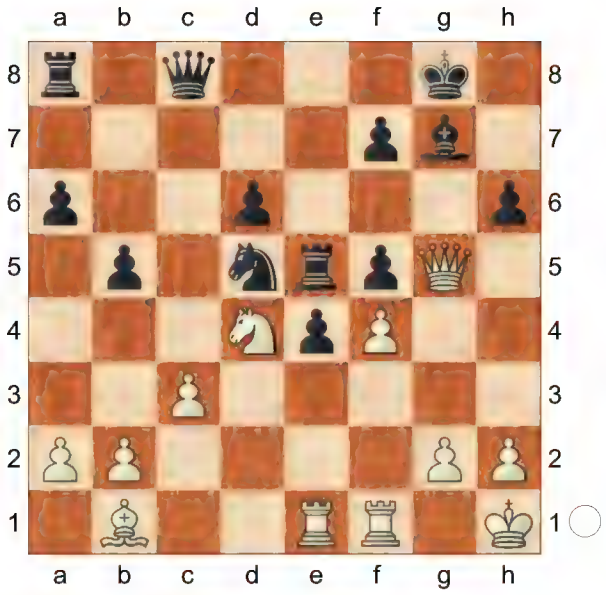
A2b22) 22...Re5 23.f4 h6

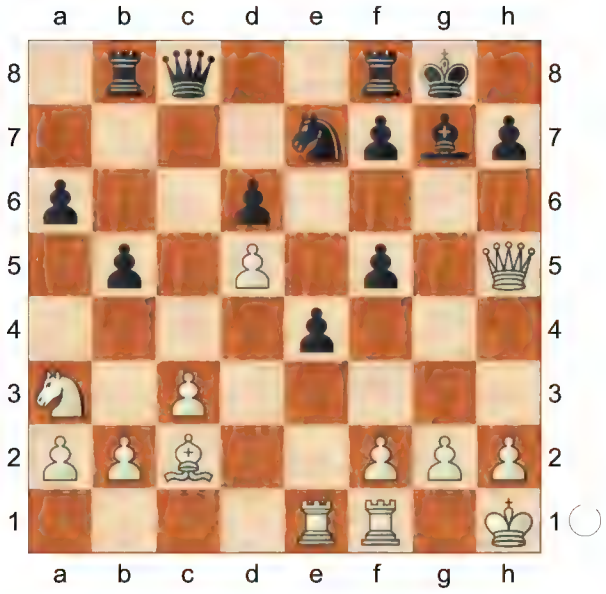
(Diagram)

24.Qxg7+! Kxg7 25.fxe5 dxe5 26.Nxf5+ Kf8 27.Bxe4 Qe6 28.Rf3± White has more than adequate compensation for material deficit. Naum 3 - Rybka 2.3.2a, Internet (blitz) 2008;

B) 18...Rb8 [Chapter]

(Diagram)





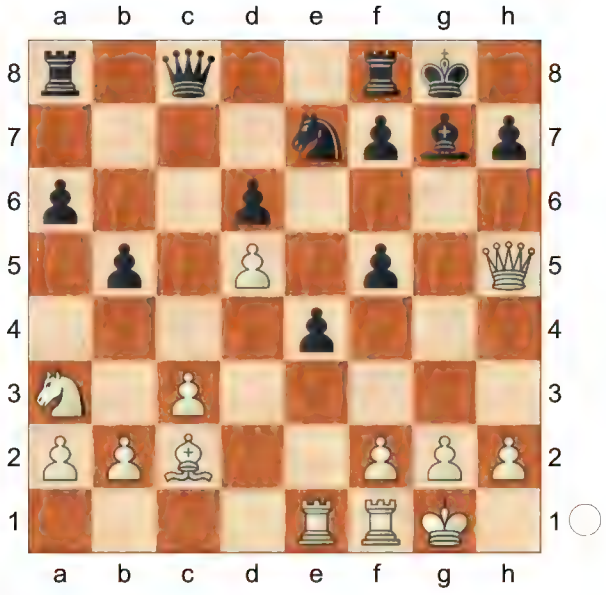
B1) 19.f3 b4

B1a) 20.fxe4 bxa3 21.exf5 Re8 *(21...Rxb2 22.f6 Ng6=* - 21... Ng6 22. f6 Rxb2*; 21...Ng6 22.f6 Rxb2 23.fxg7 Kxg7 24.Bd3 Qxc3 25.Re3 Qd2 26.Qg5 f6 27.Qg3 Rf7 28.h3 Qb4 29.Rf5 Qh4=* D. Gutsche - F. Balabaev, corr. 2003 *)* 22.f6 Ng6 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.fxg7 axb2 25.Qf5 Qe7 26.Bb1 Kxg7 27.g3 Rb7 28.Kg2 Qe5∓ D. Rozenberg - A. Dronov, corr. 2006;

B1b) 20.Nb1 bxc3 21.bxc3 Bxc3 22.Nxc3 Qxc3 23.fxe4 *(23.Bb3 Rb4 24.Qg5+ Ng6 25.Qxf5 e3 26.Qg5 Re8 27.Re2 a5∓* Fritz 8 - Rybka 2. 2, Internet (blitz) 2007 *)* 23...f4 24.Bb3 Ng6 25.Rc1 Qf6 26.Qf5 Qe7 27.Rc4 a5 28.h3 Rb4∓ Key game Historically important game A. Shirov - P. Leko, Dortmund 2002;

B2) 19.g4 b4 20.cxb4 Nxd5 21.gxf5 Kh8 22.Rg1 Bxb2 23.Qh6 Qc3 24.Rxe4 Qf6 25.Qh3 Rg8 26.Rf1 Bxa3 27.Qxa3 Rbc8 28.Bd1 Nc3 29.Re3 d5= The position is objectively equal, but precise play is required from White. Key game Historically important game V. Topalov - P. Leko, Dortmund 2002]

[[Chapter]



18.f3 b4

A) 19.cxb4?! Bxb2 20.fxe4 Bxa3 21.Re3 Qxc2 22.Rg3+ Ng6 23.Rh3 Rfd8 24.Qxh7+ Kf8

25.Rh5 *(25.exf5 Ne5 26.Rxa3 Ke8 27.Qh3 Rdc8∓* Rybka 1.01 Beta - Rybka 1.01 Beta, Internet (blitz) 2006 *)* 25...f4 26.Rf5 Ne5 27.R5xf4 Ra7 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Qh4+ Kd7 30.Qh3+ Kc7 31.Qxa3 Kb8∓ F. Steenbekkers - H. Schorra, corr. 2003;

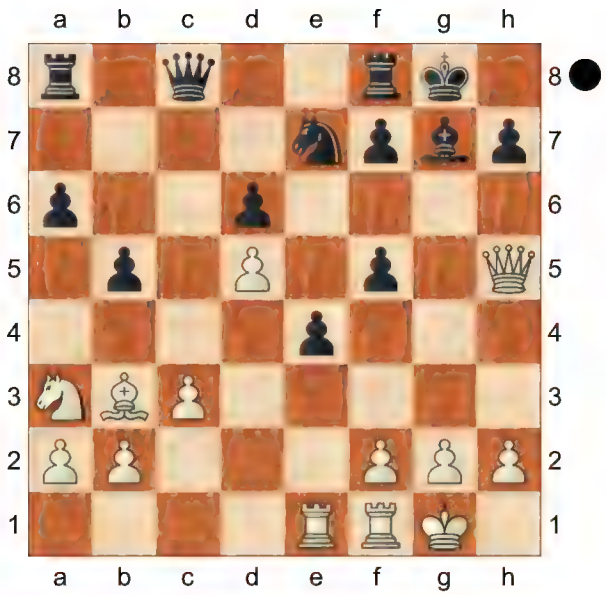
B) 19.Nb1 bxc3 *(19...Nxd5 20.fxe4 Qc5+ 21.Kh1 Ne3 22.cxb4 Qd4 23.Rxe3 Qxe3 24.exf5 Rfe8 25.f6 Qh6 26.Qxh6 Bxh6 27.Nc3 Re5=* D. Gutsche - S. Goerlinger, corr. 2001 *)* 20.Nxc3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxc3 22.Bb1 *(22.Re2 Rae8 23.fxe4 fxe4 24.Bxe4 Ng6=* J. Esnaola San Sebastian - F. Kozarski, corr. 2008 *)* 22...Ng6 23.Qxf5 exf3 24.Qxf3 Qxf3 25.Rxf3 Rae8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Kf2 Rb8= K. Asrian - Wang Yue, Khanty-Mansiysk 2005]

[18.Bb1 Qc5 19.Kh1 Qxd5 20.f3 Qe5 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Qxe5 dxe5 23.Bxe4 Rad8 24.Rd1 f5= Z. Almasi - P. Leko, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2002]

(Diagram)

18...a5

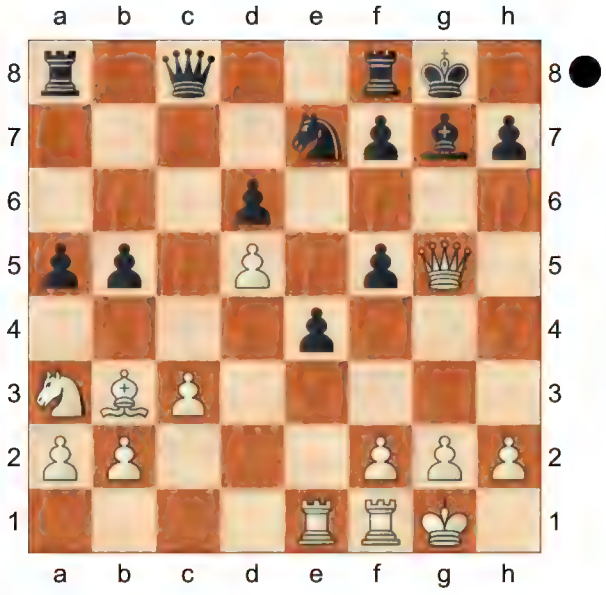
[18...Ng6 19.Nc2 Re8 20.f4 *(20.Nd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 f4=* K. Sorcnik - T. Teeriaho, corr. 2008 *)* 20...exf3 *(20...a5 21.a3 b4 22.Ba4 Qc5+ 23.Kh1 bxc3 24.Bxe8 Rxe8 25.bxc3 Bxc3 26.Re2 e3 27.Rd1 Re7 28.Qxf5 Bd2=* Black has sufficient compensation for material deficit. E. Bykov - V. Kurgansky, corr. 2007 *)* 21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 22.Qxf3 f4



23.Re1 Qd8 *(23...Qd7 24.Nb4 a5 25.Nc6 Re8 26.Rxe8+ Qxe8 27.Kf1 b4 28.cxb4 axb4 29.Qe2±* R. Ponomariov - V. Anand, Mainz 2002 *)* 24.Nb4 a5 25.Nc6 Qg5 26.a3 Ne5 27.Nxe5 Bxe5= E. Achilles - R. Schueppel, corr. 2006]

19.Nxb5 [Chapter]

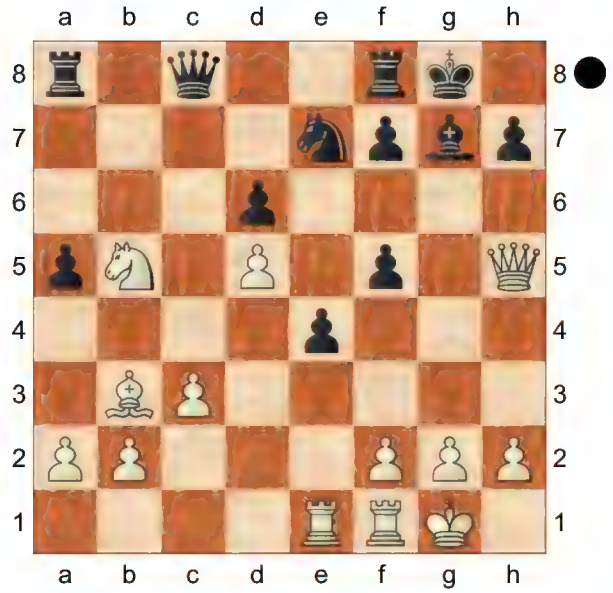
[19.Qg5 [Chapter]



Qb7 20.f3 h6

A) 21.Qf4 a4 22.Bc2 b4 23.cxb4 Qxb4 24.fxe4 Ng6 25.Qf3 *(25.Qxf5 Bxb2 26.e5 Bxe5∓*

A. Shirov - A. Grischuk, Wijk aan Zee 2003) 25...f4 26.Qe2 Qxb2 27.Nc4 Qxa2 28.Nxd6 a3 29.Nf5 Rfc8= G. Baiocchi - J. Csjernyik, corr. 2003;
B) 21.Qg3 a4 22.Bc2 b4 23.Nc4 Qxd5 24.fxe4 Qxc4 25.exf5 Nd5 26.f6 Nxf6 27.Rxf6 bxc3 *(27...Rae8?! 28.Ref1 Re2 29.Bd3 Qc5+ 30.Kh1 Re3 31.R6f3 Rxf3 32.Qxf3 bxc3 33.bxc3 Qe5 34.c4±* A. Shirov - V. Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2003) 28.bxc3 *(28.Rxh6 Qc5+ 29.Kh1 Rfe8 30.Rf1 cxb2 31.Bh7+ Kf8 32.Rxd6 Ra7=* M. Mujunen - M. Pavlicek, corr. 2012) 28...Qxa2 29.Qd3 Rfe8 30.Ref1 Bxf6 31.Rxf6 Ra5= G. Timmerman - P. Hertel, corr. 2009]



19...a4 20.Bd1 Qc5 21.Be2
[21.Nd4 Qxd5 22.Re3 Rfb8 23.Rh3 Rxb2 *(23...h6 24.b3 a3 25.Bc2 Rc8=* F. Vallejo Pons - L. Van Wely, Bled 2002) 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 25.a3 Ra5 26.Bh5 Rc5∓ A. Bubir - A. Sirota, corr. 2002]
21...Nxd5 22.Qg5
[22.Qxf5 Nxc3 23.Qxc5 Nxe2+ 24.Rxe2 dxc5= C. O'Bee - M. Jones, corr. 1999]
22...h6
[22...Rab8 23.c4 Nc7 24.Nxc7 Qxc7 25.Qxf5 Rfe8 26.b3 axb3 27.axb3 Rxb3 28.Bd1 Rc3 29.Rxe4 Rxe4 30.Qxe4 Qxc4= Y. Pelletier - L. McShane, Biel 2004]
23.Qg3 Rab8
[23...f4 24.Qh4 a3 *(24...Rae8?! 25.c4 Nc7 26.Nxc7 Qxc7 27.Qxf4 Qb6 28.Bd1±* K. Asrian - Ni Hua, Beersheba 2005) 25.b4 Qc8 26.Rc1 Rb8= M. Millstone - W. Knebel, corr. 2006]
24.Nxd6
[24.c4 Ne7 25.Rc1 Ng6 26.Rcd1 Be5 27.Qe3 Qxe3 28.fxe3 f4= F. Halwick jr - K. Sakai, corr. 2003]
24...f4 25.Nxe4 fxg3 26.Nxc5 Rxb2 27.Nxa4 Rxa2 28.Bb5 Nxc3 29.Nxc3 Bxc3 30.Re2= Key game Best Mutual Play J. Buecker - De Oliveira, corr. 2007

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□ **N,N**
■ **Chapter**
[MH]

Chapter **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5** Diagram # Black plays that move about twice less frequently than 11...0-0. Meanwhile, it often comes to a transposition of moves. Sometimes he tries to create counterplay on the queenside, saving a tempo for castling, or he attempts to remove his opponent's centralized knight with Ne7,

having in mind that White cannot capture the bishop on f6, because it is not there. **12.Nc2** This move not only prepares the fastest possible advance a2-a4, which is thematic for White in his fight for the advantage, but also it is important that he activates his most displaced piece. In this chapter, we will analyze all Black's moves, except the most natural and of course the most popular - 12...0-0. He plays most often in practice a) 12...Be6, b) 12...Ne7, c) 12...Rb8. c) **12...Rb8!?** Diagram # Black understands perfectly that White's plan is connected with the pawn-advance a2-a4, so he tries to organize some counterplay along the b-file.

[a) 12...Be6?! The development of that piece seems slightly premature. 13.a4

A) The alternatives for Black are not any better: About 13...0-0 - see 11...0-0 12 Nc2 Bg5 13 a4 Be6.;

B) 13...Na5? That is a typical bluff. Black loses a pawn without any compensation. 14.axb5 Nb3 Haugen - Harestad, Randaberg 1990, and here after White's precise reaction 15.Ra3! Black loses material after the attractive line: Bd2+ *(*therefore he is forced to continue with *15...Nc5 16.f3±* - but White remains with a solid extra pawn. *)* 16.Ke2 Qh4 17.Nc7+ Ke7 18.Nxe6 Qxe4+ 19.Ne3+-;

C) 13...Rb8 14.Ncb4

C1) In case of 14...Bxd5 15.Nxd5 0-0 16.axb5 axb5 it looks very good for White to play 17.h4 repelling Black's bishop from its active position - after Bf6 *(*It is not preferable for Black to try *17...Bh6 18.Ra6 Ne7* Schenning - Schenning, Veldhoven 1991, after White's natural reaction *19.Be2 Nxd5 20.Qxd5±* Black loses one of his weak pawns. *)* 18.Bd3 Re8 19.Qe2 b4 20.Bb5± Black has great problems on the light squares, Lyew - Vetter, Email 2002.;

C2) 14...Nxb4 15.Nxb4 bxa4? Korneev - Puigdemont, Badalona 1995. *(*Black should better play *15...Qb6 16.axb5 axb5 17.Ra6 Qb7 18.Bd3±* preserving some chancs fdor successful defence, *)* and now after 16.Nc6 Qb6 17.Nxb8+- White's material advantage is decisive.;

D) 13...bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 *(*After Black's other moves, he loses his a6-pawn without any compensation: *14...Bxd5?! 15.exd5 Ne7 16.Bxa6 0-0 17.0-0 f5 18.Nb4 f4* Trabert - Opacic, Lido Estensi 2003, and here after *19.Qf3 Bh4 20.Rfa1 Qb6 21.Bd3±* White parries easily his opponent's kingside activity and he remains with a solid extra pawn.*; 14...0-0?! 15.Bxa6 Ne7 16.Ncb4 Bxd5* Pioch - Weider, Tarnow 1979, *17.exd5 Ng6 18.0-0 f5 19.Bc4 Qd7 20.Nc6±)* 15.Bb5 Bd7 *(*About *15...Rc8 16.Rc4 Bd7 17.h4* - see 15...Bd7 16 Rc4 Rc8 17 h4. *)* 16.Rc4 Rc8 17.h4 Be7 *(*After *17...Bh6 18.Na3 0-0 19.Qa4 Nb8 20.Bxd7 Rxc4 21.Nxc4 Nxd7 22.Qc6+-* White occupies all the key-squares in the centre and he obtains a

material advantage. *)* 18.Nce3 g6 19.Qa4 Nb8 Diagram # Diaz - Lares, Mexico 1991. The most energetic line for White in the diagrammed position is: 20.Nb6! Rxc4 21.Nexc4 Bxb5 22.Qxb5+ Kf8 23.h5+- Black's queenside has been crushed and he has not completed his development yet. This knight is under arrest; therefore, he has no counterplay at all.]

[b) 12...Ne7 Diagram # This move is thematic. Black wishes to remove White's knight from its excellent placement in the centre. 13.h4 White, in his stead, repels Black's bishop to a less active position. Bh6 *(*The other possibilities for Black are doubtlessly worse: *13...Bxh4?* - this move loses by force. *14.Rxh4 Nxd5* Suarez Pousa - Soto, Los Barrios 1995, and here after *15.Qxd5 Be6 16.Qb7 Rb8 17.Qc6+ Kf8 18.0-0-0 Rb6 19.Qc5*+- White ends up with an extra knight.*; 13...Nxd5? 14.Qxd5 Be6 15.Qc6+ Bd7 16.Qxd6±* White has a solid extra pawn. *)* 14.a4 bxa4 *(*Black has not tried in practice yet the move *14...Rb8* since after *15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.axb5 axb5 17.Nb4±* he would have great problems with the protection of his b5 and d6-pawns, without any counterplay whatsoever. *)*

A) White would not achieve much with 15.Rxa4?! Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Be6 17.Qd1 and here after a5 *(*but in the line: *17...Qb6! 18.Nb4 a5 19.Nd5 Qxb2 20.Bb5+ Kd8∓* Black not only ends up with an extra pawn, but his pieces are much more active. *)* 18.Bb5+ Ke7 19.0-0 Qb6 20.c4 Rhf8 21.b4↑ he had a very powerful initiative in the game T. Airapetian - V. Tarasova, St. Petersburg 2007,;

B) 15.Ncb4! Diagram # Black has tried to solve his problems in the diagrammed position with b1) 15... Bd7, or with the help of b2) 15...0-0.

B1) b1) 15...Bd7 Diagram # This logical move forces White to take extreme measures. 16.Rxa4!? That positional sacrifice is quite typical. It is absolutely correct, because Black's bishop on h6 is out of play. *(*In answer to the other principled line for White - *16.g4* Black has at his disposal the interesting exchange sacrifice: *a5!? 17.Na6 Nxd5 18.Qxd5 Bf4 19.Qxa8 Qxa8 20.Nc7+ Ke7 21.Nxa8 Rxa8⩲* and he not obtains a pawn for it, but his queenside pressure is quite unpleasant for White. *)*

B1a) Black can reach much calmer positions with the line: 16...a5 17.Nxe7 axb4 *(*About *17...Qxe7 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Ra1!* - see 16...Nxd5 17 Nxd5 a5 18 Ra1. *)* 18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Nd5 0-0 20.cxb4 Rc8! This line is the best for Black, according to GM Sergey Karjakin. *(*After *20...Bc6 21.Bc4 Bxd5 22.Bxd5 Qa6 23.Rh3!±* White has an extra passed pawn and his king is much safer in the centre than Black's castled king is.*;* It is not preferable for Black to try the seemingly active move *20...f5 21.Bc4 Kh8 22.exf5 Bxf5*

23.0-0± since White has occupied reliably the lighs squares in the centre and Black has no compensation for the pawn. *)* 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Nxc8 Qxe4+ 23.Be2 Qxb4+ 24.Kf1 Bxc8 25.Qd5± It is not easy for White to win with his extra exchange; nevertheless, Black is doomed to a long and very unrewarding defence.;

B1b) 16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5

B1b1) In case Black declines accepting the sacrifice, there arise standard positions with a slight initiative for White: 17...a5 18.Ra1!

B1b11) In answer to 18...Rb8 White can follow with the natural line: 19.b3 *(*as well as with the much sharper variation: *19.g4!? Bf4 20.Nxf4 exf4 21.Qxd6 Rxb2 22.Qe5+ Be6 23.Bb5+ Kf8 24.0-0↑)* 19...0-0 20.Bc4↑;

B1b12) 18...0-0 19.Bc4!;

B1b2) 17...Bxa4 18.Qxa4+ Kf8 19.b4⩱ Diagram # White has a powerful knight in the centre and he has good chances to win Black's a6-pawn, so all that more than compensates his exchange sacrifice. The run-up of the game and the variations of the analysis confirm that evaluation: a5 It is logical for Black to try to save his a-pawn, otherwise White's compensation for the exchange is more than obvious: *(19...g6 20.Bxa6 f5 21.b5⩱;* or *19...Qc8 20.Be2 g6 21.0-0 Bg7 22.Ra1⩱)* 20.b5 Rb8 *(*It is not better for Black to defend with *20...g6 21.b6 Kg7 22.g3 f5 23.Nc7! Qe7 24.Nxa8 Rxa8 25.Qc6 Rb8 26.Ba6±* and he would have problems fighting against his opponent's b6-pawn in a position with material equality. *)* 21.g3! g6 22.Bh3 Kg7 23.0-0 Rf8 24.Ra1 Kh8?! *(*Black's only chance of saving the game is to try to activate his pieces - *24...f5 25.exf5 gxf5 26.Qxa5±)* 25.Qxa5 Qe8 26.c4 f5 *(*The alternatives are not any better for Black: *26...Ra8?! 27.Qxa8 Qxa8 28.Rxa8 Rxa8 29.b6+-* and he would have to give up a rook for the b6-pawn.*; 26...Rb7 27.Qb4±* Black must stop somehow White's passed pawn; meanwhile he must protect his weakness on d6 and his bishop is incapable of coming to the queenside, which makes his defence tremendously difficult. *)* 27.Qc7 Qf7 Diagram # *(*Black loses now after *27...Rc8?! 28.Qxd6 Rxc4 29.exf5 Qxb5 30.Ra7+-;* but even after *27...Rf7*

28.Qxd6 Bf8 29.Qc6 Qxc6 30.bxc6± a satisfactory outcome of his defence is highly unlikely. *)* 28.exf5! Qxc7 29.Nxc7 gxf5 30.Ra6 Rf7 31.Nd5+- Black's d6 and f5-pawns are very weak, while White enjoys a practically comlete control over the light squares. This makes us evaluate Black's position as lost, Karjakin - Radjabov, Warsaw 2005.;

B2) b2) 15...0-0 Diagram # That is the calmest line for Black. He completes his development and although he would have problems obtaining counterplay, he relies on the solidity of his position. It is far from easy for White to win against such an approach. 16.Qxa4

B2a) About 16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5 a5 18.Bb5 - see 17 Bb5 Nxd5 18 Nxd5 - see 16...a5 17 Bb5 Nxd5 18 Nxd5.;

B2b) The move 16...Bb7 - leads to a quiet game with a slight edge for White. 17.Qa5 Qd7 Tairova - Kovalevskaja, Bad Homburg 2007. *(*After *17...Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Kh8 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Bc4±* White's prospects are superior thanks to his domination over the d5-outpost and the possible pressure against Black's a and d-pawns. *)* and now White obtains a slight, but stable advantage after 18.Bc4 Rfc8 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bd5± The main drawback of Black's position is his bishop on h6, which can hardly enter the actions anytime soon.;

B2c) 16...a5 17.Bb5 Nxd5 *(*The move *17...Bb7?!* - enables White to force advantageous simplifications. *18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bxc6 Rab8 21.Ra2±* - Black's dark-squared bishop is very passive and it will not be activated in the nearest future, while his d6 and a5-pawns are weak. Instead, White's light-squared bishop is very powerful. *Rfc8 22.Bd5 Rc5 23.g3 Kh8 24.0-0 f5?!* That attempt by Black to organize some counterplay leads to his swift demise, but he is reluctant to stay completely passive. *25.b4! Rxc3 26.bxa5 f4 27.a6 Qa7* Pushkarev - Gladyszev, Sochi 2006, and here White exploits the vulnerability of Black's last rank, winning by force with the line: *28.Rb2! Rf8 29.Rb7 Qc5 30.a7+-)* 18.Nxd5

B2c1) 18...f5?! - This move oly compromises the light squares in the centre and on the kingside, while Black's counterplay is non-existent after it. 19.exf5 Bxf5 Aliavdin - Holmsgaard, Pardubice 2007, and here White can develop his initiative in the most energetic fashion with the aggressive line: 20.g4! Be6 21.Bc4 g6 *(*It is not

preferable for Black to opt for *21...g5 22.Ne3 Qf6 23.Bxe6+ Qxe6 24.Nf5±* since his bishop is bound to remain passive on h6. *)* 22.g5 Bg7 23.Nf6+ Rxf6 24.gxf6 Qxf6 25.Qc6+- White's king is not so safe indeed, but Black's compensation for the pawn is insufficient anyway, because there is only too little material left on the board.;

B2c2) 18...Kh8?!

- This move is connected with the idea to obtain counterplay on the f-file, but it would weaken the light squares in the centre. 19.b4 f5 20.Bc6 Ra7 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.bxa5 Bd3 23.Bb5 Bxb5 *(*It is not better for Black to try *23...Bf5 24.0-0 Be6 25.Bc6±)* 24.Qxb5± White has an extra outside passed pawn and a magnificently deployed knight in the centre, so his position is quite close to winning, Karjakin - Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 2007.;

B2c3) 18...Be6 19.Bc6 Rb8 Diagram # White has a forcing line in the diagrammed position: 20.b4 *(*He can also continue in a calmer fashion: *20.b3 Kh8* An. Volokitin - Ar. Timoffeev, Spain 2006, because after *21.Ra2* Black has no active prospects and that is confirmed by the following exemplary variation: *f5 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.0-0 Rf4 24.Nxf4 Bxb3 25.Qxa5 Bxa2 26.Qxa2 Bxf4 27.g3±* The light-squared complex is very weak in Black's camp. His bishop is out of action and his d6-pawn is vulnerable. *)* 20...axb4 21.cxb4 Bxd5 Black must capture the b4-pawn; therefore it is worse for him to follow with *(21...Kh8 22.b5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5 Qd7 24.Bc6 Qg4 25.0-0 Qxh4 26.Qb3±* - and despite the extra pawn, Black's position is almost beyond salvation. His rooks are very passive and his bishop can hardly come back to the g1-a7 diagonal. *f5 27.g3 Qd8 28.exf5 Bd2 29.Qa3! Bg5 30.Qd3 Qc7 31.Ra6*+- White's pieces are tremendously active in position with material equality, Ganguly - Khader, Abu Dhabi 2007. *)* 22.Bxd5 Qb6 23.0-0 Qxb4 Dominguez Perez - Jakovenko, Foros 2007, and here after 24.Qd7 Kh8 25.Ra6↑ White has a powerful initiative. Black's bishop is out of action and he either loses his f-pawn, or he must push it forward, which compromises irrevocably the light squares on his kingside.]

[The other moves do not lead immediately to great difficulties for

Black, but they are less popular, because he has problems obtaining counterplay: 12...f5?! - It looks like Black has some counter chances after that move, since he opens the f-file. The main drawback of that try however, is that Black weakens the light squares in the centre and he falls behind in development. 13.h4!

A) The other tries are hardly any better for Black: 13...Bh6?! - this move loses a pawn. 14.Qh5+ Kf8 15.exf5 Ra7 16.Bd3± Black not onl y remains a pawn down, but his king is stranded in the centre, Pribila - Boran, Piestany 2004.;

B) 13...Bf6 - After that move, White can deprive his opponent of the two-bishop advantage at any moment. 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Nce3 Be6 Barbet - Tache, Clichy 2003, this is the right time for capturing the bishop. After 16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 *(16...gxf6 17.Qf3 Na5 18.Bd3 Nc4 19.Bf5±* - After the exchange of the light-squared bishops, Black has the almost impossible task to protect his numerous pawn-weaknesses and his attempt to trade all light pieces leads to a catastrophe after: *Nxe3 20.Bxe6! Nc2+ 21.Kd2 Ke7 22.Bg4 Nxa1 23.Qb7+ Kf8 24.Bh5+-* White regains his sacrificed rook and he traps Black's knight. *)* 17.Qxd6 Ne7 18.Be2± White ends up with a solid extra pawn and Black is forced to compromise his pawn-structure.;

C) 13...Be7 14.a4 Rb8 15.axb5 axb5 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Nce3 Be6 Schirrmacher - Freyberg, Berlin 2006, now White can keep his opponent's monarch in the centre for long with aggressive actions. 18.Ra6 Qc8 19.Qf3 Bd7 20.Bd3 g6 21.h5±]

[12...g6?! - This is a solid move, but it is absolutely useless for Black in his aim to organize some counterplay. Besides, it creates a target for White on the kingside if he advances his h-pawn. 13.a4 Diagram #

A) In answer to 13...bxa4 Middelburg - Rijnaarts, Leiden 1999, it looks very energetic for White to play 14.h4 for example:

A1) or 14...Bh6 15.Rxa4 Ne7 *(*while after *15...0-0 16.h5 Bg5 17.Nce3 Ne7 18.Bc4↑* White's kingside initiative is very powerful. Even if Black manages to parry it somehow,he has no compensation for his weak queenside pawns. *)* 16.Nf6+ Kf8 17.Bc4 Kg7 18.Qf3± and Black's position seems quite dangerous,;

A2) 14...Bf6 15.Nce3 0-0 16.Qxa4 Bb7 17.h5± and he has occupied all the key-squares in the centre and he has excellent attacking chances,;

B) 13...Rb8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bd3 0-0 16.Qe2

B1) Black can hardly prove any compensation for the pawn after 16...f5 17.Bxb5 Ne7 18.Ncb4 Nxd5 19.exd5± and White's queenside passed pawns are very dangerous, while Black has no real threats on the kingside, crafty - Warcraft, Internet 1998.;

B2) The other retreat is clearly worse: 16...Na5?! - Black's

knight is hanging here and that enables White to start decisive actions with 17.h4

B2a) It looks more reliable for Black to opt for 17...Bh6 18.Ncb4 but here not Bd7? because of *(*but *18...Be6 19.Bxb5±* and Black is without a pawn and he has no counterplay. *)* 19.Rxa5+-;

B2b) 17...Bxh4?! 18.Rxa5 Qxa5 19.Rxh4 Qd8 Mijovic - Anicic, Bar 2005. Here, White can emphasize his advantage with the simple line: 20.g3 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Rxf5 *(*or *22...gxf5 23.Qh5 Rb7 24.Nce3±* and in both cases, White's centralized knights are much stronger than a rook and a pawn. *)* 23.Nce3±;

B3) 16...Ne7 17.Ncb4 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Qd7 That move looks strange,but Black has great difficulties after his other lines too: *(18...f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Bxb5 Be6 21.Bc4±* White has an extra pawn and an easy game on the light squares.*; 18...Bd7 19.0-0 Bc6 20.Nb4 Bd7 21.h3±* The vulnerability of Black's b5-pawn ties up his forces completely. *)* 19.h4 Bd8 20.h5 Qb7 Crouan - Piat, Montlucon 1997. Now, White's most aggressive line seems to be: 21.Qf3!? Ra8 22.Rd1!? Ra2 *(*It is not better for Black to try *22...g5 23.0-0 Be6 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.h6±* and his position is very unpleasant, due to the weakness of his light squares in the centre and on the kingside. *)* 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Bb1 Ra6! That is the only move. *(*After *24...Rxb2? 25.Nxh7!→* White's attack is very powerful, for example: *Kxh7 26.hxg6+ Kg8 27.g7! Kxg7 28.Qh5+-* - Black's d6-pawn is defenseless now, therefore White checkmates - *Kf6 29.Qh6+ Ke7 30.Qxd6+ Ke8 31.Qxd8#;* or *24...Ra1 25.Nxh7!→)* 25.Bc2

B3a) In answer to 25...Be6? White follows with the already familiar motive 26.Nxh7! Kxh7 27.hxg6+ and Black is helpless: Kg7 *(27...Kg8 28.Qh5 fxg6 29.Qh8+ Kf7 30.Qh7+ Kf6 31.Qxb7+-)* 28.Rh7+ Kg8 29.Qh5+-;

B3b) 25...g5! 26.0-0 Be6 27.Ra1± White exchanges his opponent's only active piece and he maintains somewhat better prospects, due to the vulnerability of Black's kingside.]

[12...Bd7 Magem Badals - F. Fernandez, Monzon 1987, Black is trying to prevent the standard pawn-advance a2-a4 with that move, but still White's most energetic line is 13.a4! Diagram # bxa4 *(*After *13...Rb8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bd3 0-0 16.0-0±* - see 13...Rb8 14 ab ab 15 Bd3 Bd7 16 0-0. *)* 14.Rxa4 Rb8 15.Na3!

A) Black must protect the pawn, after 15...0-0?! 16.Rxa6 Rxb2 17.Nc4 in the variation Rb5 *(*as well as in case of *17...Rb8 18.Be2 Ra8 19.Rxa8 Qxa8 20.Ndb6 Qb7 21.Nxd7 Qxd7 22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Nxd6±*

Black remains a pawn down and he has no compensation for it in sight. *)* 18.Nxd6 Rb2 19.Nc4 Rb8 20.Be2±;

B) 15...a5 16.Bb5± Black has weak pawns on a5 and d6, his light squares on the queenside are vulnerable and his pieces are too passive in order to compensate these weaknesses.]

[12...Nb8 - Black transfers his knight to a more active position. 13.a4 bxa4 McTavish - Peckford, Toronto 1992, and here it seems most aggressive for White to continue with the intermediatemove 14.h4!? Diagram #

A) It is less logical for Black to refrain from capturing that pawn, after 14...Be7 15.Nce3 0-0 16.Rxa4 Be6 17.b4± he can hardly complete his development without material losses.;

B) It is hardly any better for him to try 14...Bh6 in view of 15.g4↑ now Black can save his bishop in three ways: after Bf4 *(*In the variation *15...f6 16.Nce3 0-0 17.Qxa4±* the light squares in Black's camp are very weak,*;* while in the line *15...g6 16.h5 Bd7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Qf3⩲* White's compensation for the pawn is more than obvious, since Black has problems completing his development. *)* 16.Nxf4 exf4 17.Qd5 Ra7 18.Qd4 Re7 19.Qxg7 Rxe4+ 20.Kd1 Rf8 21.Bg2± - his pieces are placed quite disharmoniously and all his pawns are a sorry sight.;

C) 14...Bxh4 15.Nce3 Bg5 *(15...Be7* - This move looks too passive and after *16.Qxa4+ Bd7 17.Qa3 0-0 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Nd5 Qe6 20.Bc4±* Black has great worries protecting his d6-pawn, because his queenside is not well-developed and the open h-file might be dangerous for his king. *)* 16.Qxa4+ Bd7 *(*After *16...Kf8 17.Nc4⩲* White's lead in development is obvious. *)* 17.Qa3 0-0 *(*In the line: *17...Nc6 18.Qxd6 Be7 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.Qxe7+ Kxe7 21.b4±* Black's main trump - his bishop pair has been liquidated. The endgame is very unpleasant for him, because White has powerful queenside pressure and he dominates in the centre.*;* After *17...Bc6 18.Nf5 0-0 19.Qxd6±* the pawns are equal indeed, but White's pieces are tremendously active. *)* 18.Qxd6 Nc6 19.Bc4± Black can hardly neutralize his opponent's piece activity without positional concessions or material losses.]

[12...Bb7 - This move is mostly connected with the further transfer of the knight to c5, via the d7-square. 13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 Nb8 That is the most logical line for Black. *(*About the moves *14...0-0* - see 11...0-0;*;* as for *14...a5 15.Bc4 0-0 16.0-0* - see 11...0-0, Chapter 11.*;* about *14...Ne7 15.Bc4 0-0 16.0-0* - see 11...0-0, Chapter 11. *)* 15.Bc4 Nd7 16.b4!? This alternative to the more popular move *(16.Qe2* deserves serious attention, since White does not let his opponent's knight to its most advantageous placement. *)*

A) 16...Nb6 17.Nxb6 Qxb6 18.Bd5 0-0 19.0-0 Bxd5 *(*After

19...Rac8 20.Ra3 Bxd5 21.Qxd5 Qb5 22.Rd1± White's pro spects are better, because of his pressure against Black's vulnerable a6 and d6-pawns. *)* 20.Qxd5 Qb5 21.Rfa1! - Black has great problems after that precise move. Rac8 *(*It is hardly better for Black to try here *21...Qxd5 22.exd5 Rac8 23.Rxa6 Rxc3 24.Rc6!±)* 22.Rxa6 Qe2 23.R6a2 Rxc3 *(23...Qc4 24.Qxc4 Rxc4 25.b5 Rxc3 26.Rb1±* White's passed b5-pawn is very dangerous and his knight has an access to the d5-square, via b4. *)* 24.Ne3 Qd3 Berndt - Babula, Germany 1999, and here after 25.Rd1 Qxd5 26.Nxd5 Rb3 27.g3± White has the classical advantage of an excellent centralized knight against a passive bishop.;

B) 16...0-0 - This is a logical completion of Black's development and he postpones the fight for the d5-outpost for several moves. 17.0-0 a5 Black wishes to get rid of his weak pawn, but his defence is still too difficult. *(*About *17...Nb6 18.Nxb6 Qxb6 19.Bd5* - see 16... Nb6 17 Nxb6 Qxb6 18 Bd5 0-0 19 0-0.*;* After the other possibilities for Black, White's prospects remain superior too: *17...Kh8*
- Black prepares to organize some counterplay by advancing his f-pawn, but that is too slow. *18.Qd3 a5 19.Rfa1 axb4 20.Rxa8 Bxa8 21.cxb4±* Botsvin - Frolyanov, Cherepovets 2001.*; 17...g6*
- Black has no time to create threats on the kingside - White's queenside offensive is faster and he controls the centre. *18.Nce3 Kh8 19.Qd3 a5 20.Rfa1 axb4 21.Rxa8 Bxa8 22.cxb4* Stefansson - Crocodile, Internet 1995. *)* 18.Qd3 Nb6?! 19.Nxb6 Qxb6 Dolzhikova - Kernazhitsky, Kiev 2005, now, Black has great problems with the protection of his a5-pawn and after the natural line: 20.Bd5! Bxd5 *(*Or *20...Rfb8 21.bxa5±)* 21.Qxd5 Rac8 *(*It is not advisable for Black to try *21...Qc7 22.c4±* and he loses his a5-pawn. *)* 22.bxa5 Qb2 23.Nb4±;

C) Black has tried here: 16...Qc8?! - That is a step to the wrong side. 17.Qd3 Qc6? This is a continuation of the maneuver, which was started on the previous move. 18.b5 Qc8 Barglowski - Markos, Oropesa del Mar 1999, here after the natural try 19.bxa6 Bc6 20.Ra1± White is left with a far-advanced passed pawn as a result of the rather strange roaming of Black's queen.]

13.a4 Black is well-prepared for this operation indeed, but it is necessary for White in his fight for the advantage.

13...bxa4

[The other possibilities for Black lead to a transposition of moves: about 13...Be6 14.Ncb4 - see 12...Be6 13 a4 Rb8 14 Ncb4, variation a;]

[as for 13...0-0 - see 11...0-0.]

14.Ncb4 Diagram # **14...Bd7**

It is essential for Black to preserve his a4-pawn in order to create some counterplay. Therefore, it is worse for him to play

[14...Nxb4 15.cxb4! - this move is much stronger than capturing with the knight, since now the rook on b8 does not attack the vulnerable b2-

pawn, but instead it is restricted by the well-protected b4-pawn. 0-0 *(*About *15...Bd7 16.Bxa6* - see 14...Bd7 15 Bxa6 Nxb4 16 cxb4! *)* 16.Rxa4 and here:

A) 16...Be6?! - This move looks more natural, but after 17.Bc4 Qd7 18.b3 Kh8 19.0-0± Black loses unavoidably his a6-pawn and his active prospects are nowhere to be seen. f5 Black's only possible counterplay can be connected with opening of the f-file. 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Rxa6 e4 22.Ne3! Bxe3 23.fxe3 Bxc4? *(*It is much better for Black to play here *23...Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 d5 25.Qf4 Rd8 26.Bf1±* and although he has no compensation for the pawn in that variation either, he maintains some chances of successful defence. *)* 24.bxc4 Rxf1+ 25.Qxf1+- Jakovenko - Wang Yue, Ergun 2006.;

B) After 16...Bb7 17.Bxa6 Bxd5 *(*It is evidently worse for Black to try *17...Bc6 18.b5 Bxb5 19.Bxb5 Rxb5 20.b4 Qc8 21.0-0±* and the dominance of the centralized knight over the bishop makes White's advantage obvious, Edelstein - Rinaldi, corr. 1992. *)* 18.Qxd5 Qd7 19.b3 Bd8 20.0-0 Bb6 21.Kh1 Kh8 22.f3± White has a n extra passed pawn, despite its being doubled, and he has neutralized Black's possible kingside counterplay with his last move. Black failed to cope with the problems of his defence Bd4 23.Bd3 Qe6 24.Qxe6 fxe6 25.Bc4 Rfe8 26.Ra6± and despite the opposite-coloured bishops, Black was doomed to a long and very difficult defence, Palac - Gagarin, Zadar 2005.;

C) 16...f5 - This is an interesting pawn-sacrifice with the idea to obtain counterplay on the kingside. 17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Bxa6 Bd7 19.Ra3 Kh8 20.0-0± The vulnerability of the light squares in the centre makes Balck's compensation for the pawn insufficient and after Bh6?! Getz - R. Christensen, Copenhagen 2007, it deserves attention for White to continue with the prophylactic move 21.Rc3 preventing the sortie of the Black's queen to the kingside. Qh4 22.Rc4±;

D) 16...a5 17.b5 Bb7 *(*After *17...Bd7 18.Qb3 Qc8 19.Nc3 Bd8 20.Bc4 Bb6 21.0-0* Black has something to brag about indeed: his dark-squared bishop is on the perfect diagonal, but White has already a passed pawn on the queenside and he can start a kingside offensive pushing f2-f4 after some preparation, Duijn - Lemmers, Leeuwarden 1995.*; 17...f5* - This move looks more aggressive, but it weakens considerably the light squares in the centre and on the kingside. *18.h4 Bf6 19.Bc4 Kh8 20.Qe2 Bd7 21.exf5 Rc8 22.0-0 Bxh4 23.Bd3±* White dominates in the centre and his dangerous passed b5-pawn provides him with superior prospects, RYBKA - THE BARON, Leiden 2006. *)* 18.Bc4 Kh8 19.0-0 f5 20.exf5 Rxf5 P. Cramling - Tisdall, Gladsaxe 1983, and here after 21.Qe2 Rc8 22.Bd3 Rf8 23.Be4 Rc5 24.Rd1± Black is

helpless against White's dominance over the light squares in the centre and therefore his position is without any good prospects.;

E) 16...Qd7?! - This is a strange move. Black loses a pawn as well as his main trump - the two-bishop advantage. 17.Bxa6 Bxa6 18.Rxa6 Rfc8 19.0-0± White has an extra pawn and his omnipotent knight on d5 makes his position almost winning, Damjanovic - Svicevic, Kladovo 1994.]

15.Bxa6 Nxb4 Diagram #

[15...Na5?! - This move leads to material losses. 16.Rxa4 Bxa4 17.Qxa4+ Kf8 18.0-0 Ra8 Sanz Barrionuevo - Sanchez Cuchillo, Burriana 1990, White wins easily here with the line: 19.Ra1! Nb7 *(*It is not better for Black to defend with *19...Nc4 20.Qb5 Nd2 21.Nc6 Qd7 22.Nb6*+- and after White captures his opponent's rook on a8, he will remain with an extra piece. *)* 20.Bxb7! Rxa4 21.Rxa4+- Black has no satisfactory defence against 22 Ra8, therefore White will end up with two light pieces and a pawn against a rook.]

[15...0-0?! - This move loses a pawn. 16.Rxa4 Nxb4 *(*The pawn-advance *16...f5?!* - compromises the light squares in the centre. *17.exf5 e4 18.h4! Bh6 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Rc4 Ba8 21.Rc8 Qa5 22.Rxb8 Rxb8 23.Bc4 Rxb2 24.0-0±* White not only has an extra pawn, but he has excellent attacking prospects thanks to his centralized pieces and Black's vulnerable kingside, M. Sorokin - Gutman, USSR 1978. *)* 17.Rxb4 Qa5 18.Bc4 Qc5 19.Rxb8 Rxb8 20.b3± White has won a pawn, but he lags a bit in development, so in answer to Bb5 it is very good for him to opt for 21.0-0! Bxc4 22.bxc4 Qxc4 23.Qg4 h6 24.h4 Bd8 25.g3 Bb6 26.Kg2↑ White has powerful positional pressure, thanks to his centralized knight and Black should play very carefully. The imprecise move Bc5? enabled White to activate his rook with 27.Rb1 Rf8 28.Rb7± Golubev - Gubajdullin, Moscow 2006.]

[Following 15...Ne7 Droessler - Hauschild, Germany 2004, it is sensible for White to attack his opponent's weak pawnwith 16.Ne3!? Bxe3 17.fxe3 Qb6 18.Qd3 f5 19.0-0 0-0 *(*It is hardly better for Black to try here *19...f4 20.Kh1 0-0 21.exf4 exf4 22.Bc4+ Kh8 23.e5±)* 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Qd2± - and White has somewhat better chances, due to the vulnerability of Black's d6 and a4-pawns.]

16.cxb4! This is an important moment. Now, the placement of Black's rook on b8 is pointless, because his attack against the b4-pawn is not as effective as that against the b2-pawn. Meanwhile, the b4-pawn is passed and it is ready to advance at an opportune moment.

16...0-0 17.0-0 Bc6 Diagram #

[17...g6 Bilen - Chasovnikova, Moscow 2006, This is a useful move, because if White decides to sacrifice the exchange analogously to the main line, his initiative would not be so effective. he can continue without sacrifices, though: 18.b3!? axb3 *(*Or *18...Bc6 19.Rxa4 Bxa4 20.bxa4 Qd7 21.Bd3±)* 19.Qxb3 Be6 20.Bc4± - White has somewhat better

chances, because of his active pieces and the dominance over the central d5-outpost.]

[17...Qe8 - This move prevents the exchange sacrifice indeed, but it dooms Black to a long defence without any bright prospects. 18.b3 axb3 *(*After *18...Bc6?!* - White's exchange sacrificeis very effective: *19.Rxa4 Bxa4 20.bxa4±)* 19.Qxb3 Be6 Corrales - Gongora, Santa Clara 2007, and now after 20.Rfd1± White controls the centre and his queenside passed pawn is ready to advance at any moment. Black's only possible counterplay is connected with f7-f5, but that compromises the light squares on the kingside.]

18.Rxa4! This is no oubt the best line for White. He obtains an excellent compensation for the exchange thanks to his powerful knight in the centre and his queenside passed pawn. **18...Bxa4** Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, because after

[18...Qd7 19.b5 Bxb5 20.Bxb5 Qxb5 21.Rb4± the superiority of the knight over the bishop is obvious and Black's attempt to change the course of actions with a queen-sacrifice led to a lost position for him after Qxb4 22.Nxb4 Rxb4 23.Qxd6 Rb5 24.g3+- Perunovic - Milanovic, Belgrade 2006.]

19.Qxa4 Diagram # **19...Qe8** Black's defence is not any easier if he enters an endgame.

[His position is difficult too after the alternatives: 19...Bh6?! 0.91/14 19...Kh8 0.20 - This mov e is connected with the idea to transfer the queen to the kingside, but Black does not obtain any counterplay with it. Instead, White's passed pawn advances to the penultimate rank. 20.b5 Qh4 1.57/10 *(20...Kh8±* 0.69/10 *)* 21.b6± Rfd8? 3.65/11 *(21...f5±* 1.46/9 was necessary. *)* 22.b7± Mr335 - crafty, Internet 1999.]

[19...Kh8?! - That is a loss of time. 20.Qc6 Bd2 21.b5 Ba5 22.Bb7

A) In case of 22...Qe8? 2.33/14 22...f5 0.08 - the exchange of queens is in favour of White. 23.Ra1! And now Qxe8 would win. Bd8 24.Qxe8! Rxe8 25.Bc6 Rf8 26.Ra6!± Black's extra exchange is absolutely immaterial and his pieces are so cramped that he has no active prospects. Wards off Bb6 g6? 3.94/11 *(26...Rc8±* 1.19/10 was called for. *27.g3 Kg8)* 27.b6+- f5 28.exf5 e4 29.b7+- Ahn - Bewersdorff, Germany 2001.;

B) 22...f5= 0.00/12;

C) 22...Qh4 1.48/19 23.b4± Bd8 24.Qxd6 Bg5 Zapata - C. Lopez, Cali 2001, Black's position is nearly hopeless after White's activemove 25.Nb6! for example:

C1) Black would not fare any better after his other possibilities 25...Rfd8 26.Qc7 Qg4 Prevents Nc8 27.Nc4 Qd7 1.64/7 *(27...Qe2±* 0.99/13 *)* 28.Qxd7+- Rxd7 29.Bc6 1.05/21 *(29.Bd5!*+- 1.67/25 *)* 29...Rd4± 30.Nxe5±;

C2) or 25...Rfe8 26.g3 Qg4 27.Bd5± 1.02/22 and in both cases his pieces remain totally passive. *(27.Qc7!*+- 2.29/21 and the rest is easy. Threatens to win with Nd7! *Bf4 28.Bc6)*;

C3) 25...Rbd8 26.Nd7
C3a) Or 26...f5 27.Qc5! Rf7 3.02/12 *(*After *27...Be7? 28.Qc7*+- Black loses plenty of material.*; 27...Be7* 2.09/11 was worth a try. *28.Qc7 Rxd7 29.Qxd7 Bxb4)* 28.Bc6+- fxe4 29.g3 Qh5 30.Nxe5± White obtains unavoidably a third pawn for the exchange.;
C3b) 26...Rfe8 27.Bc6! Be7 28.Qxe5 b6 would now be deadly. Bxb4 29.Qd4± Black's defence will be very difficult, because his rooks are stuck to the last rank and White has two pawns for the exchange, one of them being a dangerous passed pawn.]

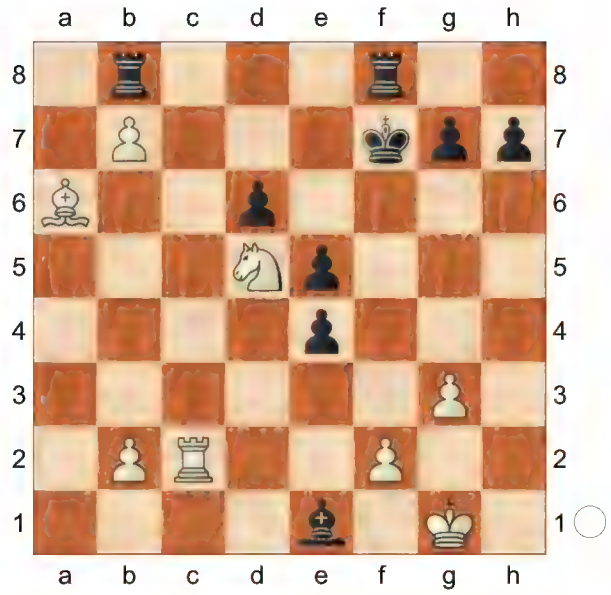
[19...f5 - This move weakens the light squares on the kingside. 20.exf5 Rxf5 21.Bd3
A) Following 21...Rf7 22.b5↑ Black has problems fighting against his opponent's active pieces. Qf8 23.h4 Bf4 1.84/23 *(23...Bd8±* 0.61/19 *)* 24.h5± 1.28/21 White dominates in the centre and he can create threats on both sides of the board, Toth - Pechy, Trieste 2004. *(24.Qe4*+- 1.84/23 *g6 25.b6)*;
B) 21...Rf8 22.b5 Qd7 Repels Qg4 23.Qe4 g6 L'Ami - Moser, Augsburg 2002, White controls the centre and he can prepare the development of his initiative at leisure,after 24.Ra1 Qf5 25.Qe2 Qf7 26.Be4± Black must consider the possible advance of his opponent's passed pawn as well as his eventual kingside offensive with g2-g3, followed by the advance of his h-pawn. *(26.b6!?)*]

[19...g6 - It was considered for a long time that Black could equalize after that move. 20.Qc6 Bd2 21.b5 Ba5 22.Bb7 f6! - This is the only move, because Black brings his rook on f8 to the defence of his queenside. 23.Rc1! *(*In the game Barua - B. Lalic, Ubeda 1998, White continued with *23.b4?! Bb6! 24.Nxb6 Rf7 25.Rd1 Rfxb7 26.Rxd6 Qxd6 27.Qxd6 Rxb6*= and the position was already looking rather drawish. *)* 23...Rf7 *(*It is worse for Black to play *23...Bd2?! 24.Rc2 Qa5 25.g3 Bb4 26.Qa6! Kh8 27.Rc4 Bd2 28.b4 Qd8 29.b6*+- since his pieces are helpless against White's queenside onslaught. *)* 24.Bc8 Ra7 25.h4± Black has prevented the advance of White's b-pawn indeed, but he has no active prospects. Meanwhile, White has excellent attacking chances on the kingside.]

20.Qxe8 Rfxe8 21.b5 f5 Diagram # The diagrammed position was reached in the game Anand - Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 2006. In his comments, Anand recommended how White should develop his initiative in the most energetic fashion: **22.h4!** 0.06/22 White must obtain the control over the c-file.
[22.b6± 0.63/19]
22...Bxh4= 23.Rc1 fxe4 24.b6 Rf8! 25.g3 Bg5! 26.Rc6 Bd2 1.38/9
[26...Kf7= 0.07/11]
27.b7!± Be1 28.Rc2! Kf7
[It is not better for Black to opt for 28...e3 2.55/9 28...Kf7 1.38 29.fxe3 Kf7 30.Rc8 Ke6 2.56/10 *(⌓30...e4* 1.67/10 *)* 31.e4 1.19/8 *(31.Nb6*+-

2.56/10 *Ba5 32.Bc4+ d5 33.Bxd5+ Kd6 34.Rc6+ Ke7 35.Nc4)* 31...Bf2+ 2.12/12 *(31...Bxg3±* 1.19/8 *32.Kg2 Be1)* 32.Kh1!+- Ba7 33.Nb4! Kd7 34.Bb5+ Ke6

35.Rc7!± since he cannot maintain the material balance anymore and in addition he cannot capture White's dangerous b7-pawn.]



29.Kf1! Ba5? 4.62/24

[29...Bxf2± 1.40/8 30.Rxf2+ Ke6]

30.b4+- Ke6

[Black loses too after 30...Bd8 31.Rc8 Bg5 32.Nb6+-]

31.bxa5 Kxd5 32.Bb5!+- Black is compl etely helpless against White's two connected far-advanced passed pawns. CONCLUSION In this chapter, we analyze one of the modern lines of the Chelyabinsk variation 11...Bg5 - Black ensures the two-bishop advantage, with the idea that it would compensate the defects of his pawn-structure. In answer to the strongest move for White 12 Nc2, (White centralizes his knight and prepares the crucial pawn-advance a2-a4, which is aimed at exploiting the weakness of the light squares on the queenside.) Black has tried in practice different moves and in this chapter we analyze thoroughly: a) 12...Be6?!, b) 12...Ne7, c) 12...Rb8. It is worth mentioning that Black does not lose after some other rarely played lines, but they all lead to positions without any good prospects for him, while White's game is very easy on the weak squares on both sides of the board. The development of Black's bishop to the e6-square in variation a, is no doubt premature, because at first, that square is not always the best for that bishop - it must be deployed sometimes to b7, or d7 and secondly, Black thus weakens his a6-pawn and White develops his initiative effortlessly with quite natural moves. The logical move 12...Ne7 (Black fights immediately against White's powerful centralized knight) is analyzed in variation b. The basic drawback of that move however is that White can play 13 h4! repelling Black's bishop to the edge of the board and it cannot join in the actions easily from there. After the practically forced line

13...Bh6 14 a4 bxa4 15 Ncb4! Black has to make up his mind between several possibilities: In variation b1, he forces his opponent to sacrifice the exchange on a4. White obtains numerous advantages as compensation - he has complete control over the light squares in the centre and on the queenside. His knight on d5 is all-powerful and he can create a passed pawn on the queenside after he captures Black's weak a6-pawn. Then, it would be practically material equality on the board. Accordingly, Black's extra exchange cannot compensate completely all the defects of his position. In variation b2, Black obtains a more solid, but rather passive position, practically without counterplay, but in a position with material equality. He tries to complete his development and he tries to make a draw by simplifications. The disadvantageous placement of his bishop on h6 is especially empasized in that variation. In the critical position, arising after Black's move 19, White has the pleasant choice between the move, which forces the issue immediately - 20 b2-b4 and the calmer line - 20 b2-b3. The first line leads to considerable simplifications - there are only kingside pawns left on the board, but the presence of heavy piece emphasizes the different power of the opposite-coloured bishops and that dooms Black to a fight for a draw without any active prospects. In the second case, White is not in a hurry to create a passed pawn on the queenside and because of that, there remain many more pawns on the board. In that case, Black must consider the possible advance of his opponent's b-pawn at any moment and he must take care about the protection of his weak a5-pawn too. In variation c) 12...Rb8, Black tries to save a tempo by postponing his castling, with the idea to create some counterplay on the b-file. He plans to counter White's thematic break a2-a4, by exchanging b5xa4 and exerting pressure against the b2-pawn. Despite that, White, in his fight for the opening advantage, is forced to sacrifice temporarily a pawn with 13 a4, followed by 13...bxa4 14 Ncb4! - he covers the b-file in that fashion and he gobbles unavoidably Black's a6-pawn. The key moment in that variatio is the possibility for White to capture c3xb4! in answer to a5xb4. After that, Black's rook is restricted in its movements by his opponent's b4-pawn and it is much easier for White to protect that pawn than the b2-pawn. Later, after White captures Black's a6-pawn, he creates a passed pawn along the b-file. It is essential for White to control the d5-outpost, since he needs to have a piece there. Just like in variation b1, it is a classical resource, in his fight for the advantage, to exchange at an opportune moment his rook for Black's light-squared bishop.

[Weaker is 32.Rc8 Kd4 33.Rc4+ Kd3 34.Rc7+ Kd2+-]

B33

□ **N,N**

■ **Chapter**

[MH]

Chapter **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 0-0 12.Nc2 Bg5**

13.a4 bxa4 14.Rxa4 a5 15.Bc4 Rb8 Diagram # In this chapter, we will analyze the main and the most popular line of the Chelyabinsk variation. Black's last move looks the most natural, since he has improved the placement of his rook and he has avoided the pin along the a-file with tempo. The next idea on his agenda is to prepare and accomplish the thematic pawn-advance f7-f5. **16.b3** This move fortifies the light-squared bishop and it defends the hanging pawn. Now, Black has a choice. Sometimes he chooses a) 16...Be6, but still he plays much more often b) 16... Kh8. Before beginning our analysis of these lines, we will pay some attention to Black's alternatives. b) **16...Kh8** Diagram # This is the most popular and logical move for Black. He removes his king away from the a2-g8 diagonal and that is necessary for the preparation of f7-f5. Meanwhile he has not made up his mind yet whether he would push immediately his bishop pawn, or he would precede that with the move g7-g6.

[a) 16...Be6 Diagram # This move is not flexible, because the e6-square is not always optimal for Black's bishop. 17.0-0

A) In case of 17...Ne7 White's most principled reaction is 18.Nxe7+! as it was played in the game Nijboer - van Kooten, Dieren 1984, and after Bxe7 *(*Black would not change the evaluation of the position with *18...Qxe7* in view of *19.Na3!* White's knight is headed for the c4-square in order to attack both Black's weak pawns. *Qc7 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nc4 Be7 22.Rxa5 Qb7 23.Qd3 Qxb3 24.Ra7±* Black has managed to regain his pawn indeed, but White maintains the initiative as before. *)* 19.Ne3± White obtained a stable advantage.;

B) In the variation 17...Qd7 18.Qe2 *(*It is also interesting for White to try *18.Qh5 h6 19.Qe2±* Carvajal - Ies Palau, Cali 2001, provoking weakening of the light squares in Black's camp in case he goes for the standard pawn-advance f7-f5. *)* 18...Kh8 19.Nce3 g6 20.Kh1 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.f4 Bh6 23.Qh5 Bxf4 24.Nxf4 exf4 25.Nd5 Ne5 it looks like Black has come very close to equality, but following 26.Rxa5 Nxc4 27.bxc4± Acher - Lazar, Mureck 1998, White maintains a slight advantage, because Black's king is rather unsafe.;

C) After 17...g6 18.Nce3 it is more reasonable for Black to opt for

C1) while the premature activity 18...f5?! when Black's king is under X-ray is not so good for him. White follows with 19.exf5 gxf5 20.f4 exf4 21.Nxf4 Bxc4 22.Nxc4 Bxf4 23.Qd5+! Kg7 24.Rxf4 Rf6 25.Rf3± and he obtains good attacking chances.;

C2) White is better too after 18...Bh6 Zaslavsky - Dragicevic, Budva 2003, 19.Qf3!? Kh8 *(*But not *19...f5? 20.exf5 gxf5* because of *21.Nb4!+-)* 20.Rd1± and the game develops in the spirit of the main line 17...Kh8.;

C3) 18...Kh8 - see 17...Kh8,;

D) 17...Kh8 18.Nce3 That is a natural move, preventing the

advance f7-f5.

D1) About 18...Qd7 19.Qe2 - see 17...Qd7.;

D2) Naturally, White is clearly better after 18...f5? 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Nxf5 Rxf5 21.Bd3 Rf8 Incedi - Strelicka, Svetla nad Sazavou 1998, 22.h4! Bf4 *(*or *22...Bxh4? 23.Qh5+-)* 23.g3 Bh6 24.Qc2 g6 25.h5± and Black's kingside ends up in ruins.;

D3) If 18...Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Ne7 then 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Nc4± CompZChess - Jaulin, Aubervilliers 1999.;

D4) 18...g6 Diagram # 19.Qf3!? This interesting idea was successfully tried in the game Radulski - Nataf, Vrnjacka Banja 2005. It is very difficult for Black to prove that the advance of his f-pawn is good for him when White's queen is on the f3-square. On the contrary, Black only creates new weaknesses after that. f5 20.Rd1 *(*No doubt, it deserves attention to analyze the tactical possibility: *20.exf5 gxf5 21.Nb4!?* but after correct play from both sides, there arise simplifications after which White has a symbolic extra pawn, but the position is evidently quite drawish: *e4 22.Nxc6 exf3 23.Nxd8 Bxc4 24.Nxc4 fxg2 25.Rd1 Bxd8 26.b4 axb4 27.Rxb4 Rc8 28.Nxd6 Rxc3 29.Rb8 Kg7 30.Rxd8 Rxd8 31.Nxf5+ Kf6 32.Rxd8 Kxf5=)* 20...Qd7 21.h3 It is necessary for White to take the g4-square under control. He should not be in a hurry and he should test his opponent how he is going to solve the problem with the juxtaposition of the pawns on f5 and e4. *(*The line: *21.Qg3 Bd8 22.exf5 gxf5 23.f4∞* leads to an unclear position with mutual chances. *)* 21...Bh4 White would have a comfortable blocking game after the exchange on e4. 22.Rd2 f4 Black closes the kingside with the idea to organize a direct attack there. 23.Ng4 Qf7 Diagram # 24.Nh2! This is a very powerful maneuver. White transfers his knight along the route g4-h2-f3; meanwhile the queen goes back to the queenside in order to exert pressure against Black's weaknesses there. Bd8 25.Qd1 h5 26.Nf3± Diagram # White has created a concealed tactical threat, which was realized in the abovementioned game. After Black's mistake

D4a) After 26...Kh7 it works again for White to continue with 27.Nxf4! exf4 28.Rxd6 Bxc4 29.Rxc4+-;

D4b) It is better for Black to play 26...Qe8 but White can counter that with 27.Qa1 (with the idea Qa3) and later for example: g5 28.Nxg5! Bd7 *(*Or *28...Bxg5 29.Nc7±; 28...Bxd5 29.exd5 Bxg5 30.dxc6±)* 29.h4 Qg6 30.f3 Bxg5 31.hxg5 Qxg5 32.Nc7 Qe7 33.Raa2! Be8 34.Nb5 Rf6 35.Qd1 Rd8 36.Rd3± Black's attack is not so

dangerous anymore; meanwhile White has prepared to triple his heavy pieces along the d-file in a classical fashion.;
D4c) 26...Rg8? 27.Nxf4! (This is beautiful and strong.) exf4 *(*The position is hopeless for Black after *27...Bxc4 28.Rxc4 Qxf4 29.Rxc6+-)* 28.Rxd6 Bxc4 29.Rxc4 Ne7 30.Ng5 Qf8 31.Qd4+ Qg7 32.Nf7+ Kh7 33.Nxd8+- and Black should better resign.]

[The positions arising after 16...Bd7 17.Nce3!? was analyzed thoroughly in our previous chapter - see 15...Bd7.]

[In case of 16...Bb7 17.Nce3 Kh8 18.0-0 Ne7 19.Qd3 Bxe3 20.Nxe3 there arises again a transposition to other lines - see 16...Kh8 17 Nce3 Bxe3.]

[After 16...g6 17.0-0 original positions can be reached only after Kg7 *(*The move *17...Kh8* leads to the main line - see 16...Kh8. *)* but it is not easy to recommend such a move, because Black's king is not comfortable on the g7-square after standard developments in the game. There might follow 18.Qe2 Be6 19.Kh1 Qd7 and here in the game Janturin - Kamenets, Decin 1998, White had to play 20.Nce3 and then to counter f5 with the standard reaction 21.exf5 gxf5 22.f4 exf4 23.Nxf4 Bxf4 24.Rxf4 Bxc4 25.Qxc4± creating a maximal number of pawn-islands for the opponent.]

[Black cannot equalize with the move 16...Ne7 which was played in the game Brener - Kostic, Internet 2005, in view of 17.Nxe7+!? and Black is forced to capture on e7 with his bishop and after Bxe7 18.0-0 Bd7 19.Ra2 a4 That is an attempt by Black to get rid of his weakness. 20.bxa4 Qc7 21.Ne3 Bg5 22.Qd3 Rfc8 23.Bd5 Qxc3 24.Qxc3 Rxc3 25.a5± and the endgame is better for White, because of his passed a-pawn. Black cannot play Bxe3? 26.fxe3 Be6 27.a6 Bxd5 28.exd5 Ra8 29.Rb1+- since the rook and pawn ending is winning for White.]

17.Nce3!?

[The move 17.0-0 has been played in numerous games, but lately White encounters real problems to obtain any opening advantage. After Black's most energetic reaction f5! 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Nce3 Bg6∞ he has excellent prospects and that evaluation was confirmed by a lot of games played at the highest possible level. I advise my readers to avoid the main lines just at that moment and to try to reach not so well analyzed positions, which are quite interesting and with good prospects for White. The move 17 Nce3!? restricts Black's posibilities, since it does not allow the immediate move f7-f5. The drawback of that move is that Black can get rid of his potentially bad dark-squared bishop, but as we are going to see, things are far from easy for him after similar developments. We will analyze here b1) 17...Bxe3 and b2) 17...g6.]

b2) **17...g6** Diagram # Black usually plays like that, preparing the pawn-advance f7-f5, being reluctant to part with his bishop pair.

[b1) 17...Bxe3 Diagram # This is a straightforward attempt by Black to

solve his opening problems. He forces White's knight to abandon the central d5-outpost and then Black advances f7-f5 without the preparatory move of his knight-pawn. 18.Nxe3 Ne7 19.0-0

A) The other possibility for Black here is 19...Bb7 20.Qd3 f5 *(*But not *20...Qd7? 21.Rd1 Rbd8 22.Rxa5 Qc6 23.Nd5*+- Schoene - Helmbold, Willingen 2001. *)* but White has at his disposal the powerful argument 21.Rd1! It becomes clear now that after Bxe4 *(*In the game Obukhovski - Kalegin, Kaluga 1981, Black refrained from capturing on e4 and he preferred the aggressive move *21...f4* There followed *22.Nf1 Rf6 23.Nd2 g5 24.Rda1 g4 25.Rxa5 Rh6 26.Rb5 Ra8 27.Rxa8 Qxa8 28.Rb6 Nc8 29.Rb4±* White won a pawn, while Black's pieces wer incapable of supporting effecitively the pawn-offensive on the kingside. *)* 22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Rxd6 Black has great problems in the endgame, for example: f4 24.Nf1 Nc8 25.Rd2 Nb6 26.Rxa5 Nxc4 27.bxc4 Rbc8 28.c5!? *(*The alternative for White is - *28.Rxe5 Rxc4 29.Rd4 Rxd4 30.cxd4 Bd3 31.g4 fxg3 32.hxg3±* and he has considerable chances of materializing his extra pawn. *)* 28...Bc6 29.Rd6 e4 30.g3 g5 31.Ra7± - White's rooks are very active and Black's defence is difficult.;

B) 19...f5 20.exf5

B1) The move 20...Nxf5 may seem attractive for Black, but White can counter it with 21.Nxf5 Bxf5 *(21...Rxf5 22.Qd5 Bb7 23.Qxa5 Qg5 24.Bd5±* Bindrich - Jefic, Obrenovac 2004. *)* 22.Qd5± Maidla - Puittinen, Helsinki 1993, and Black fails to keep the material equality.;

B2) 20...Bxf5 Diagram #

B2a) In the game Santo-Roman - Blaskowsk, Sudlohn 1981, White did not play in the best possible fashion and he could have become even worse if after 21.Qa1 d5 22.Rd1 Bd7 23.Rxa5 dxc4 24.Ra7 Black had played cxb3! 25.Qb2 *(25.Rdxd7 b2 26.Qb1 Qb6 27.Rxe7? Qg6-+)* 25...Nc6 26.Raxd7 Qe8 27.R7d6 e4∓;

B2b) 21.Ra2! This is an mportant moment. White must attack both his opponent's pawn, one after another, in order to break his defence. 21...Be4 *(*In case of *21...Qb6 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.Qxd5 Bd7?!* (The passive defence is also hopeless for Black) *24.Qxa5±* Pokazanjev - Malina, Kemerovo 2007, Black remains a pawn down. *)* 22.Rd2 Rb6 *(*The move *22...Rf6?* Vombek - Pavlidou, Sibenik 2007, can be countered by White with *23.Ng4! Rg6 24.Bf7±)* 23.Qa1 White exploits his heavy pieces with maximal effectiveness. *(*It is also interesting for him to try *23.Re1!? Qc7 24.Bf1!* freeing the c4-square for his

knight. *)* 23...Qc7 24.Rfd1± Diagram # White exerts powerful long-term positional pressure. That position was reached in the game Buczinski - Surin, Email 2000, and it followed with Rc6 25.Kh1 *(*It is also good for White to play immediately *25.Qa3!?)* 25...Qb6 *(*It is more resilient for Black to defend with *25...Nf5 26.Nxf5 Bxf5 27.Qa3 Rd8 28.h3±* and White has only a slight advantage. *)* 26.Qa3 Nf5 27.Nxf5 Rxf5 28.Re2 Rf4 29.f3 Bg6 30.Red2 Rf7 31.Rd5± and Black's situation was absolutely critical.]

[About 17...Be6 18.0-0 g6 19.Qf3 - see 16...Be6.]

[If 17...Ne7 then 18.Nxe7 Here, it will not work for Black to play

A) Black's position remains difficult even if he captures on e7: 18...Qxe7 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.0-0 Bd7 *(*Or *20...f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Qe2 Bd7 23.Ra2 Bc6 24.Rd1 Ra8 25.Qd3 Qd7* Arzumanian - V. Kuznetsov, Pardubice 2006, *26.Nb6 Qg4 27.Bd5 e4 28.Qe2* and White maintains his advantage, because of the numerous pawn-weaknesses in Black's camp. *)* 21.Ra2 f5 22.exf5 Bxf5 23.Qe2 Rc8 24.Rfa1 Rc5 25.b4± Bakr - Mamedov, Adana 2006, and White has a powerful passed b-pawn,;

B) or 18...Bxe7 19.0-0 Bg5 20.Nf5! The position with bishops of opposite colours is clearly in favour of White. Bd7 21.Ra2 *(*It deserves attention for White to play *21.Ra1!?* in order to place later his rook on d1. *)* 21...Bxf5 22.exf5 Rc8 23.Qf3 Rc5 24.Rd1 Qc7 25.g3± Wang Hao - Iv. Popov, Yerevan 2007 - and Black must be prepared for a long and laborious defence.;

C) 18...Bxe3? 19.Nxc8 Bc5 20.Nxd6 Bxd6 21.0-0± Mijovic - Gavric, Sutomore 2004, since White ends up with a solid extra pawn.]

18.0-0 After 18 0-0, Black usually chooses between b2a) 18...f5 and b2b) 18...Bh6.

[White can try to fortify his position in the centre without castling with 18.Qd3 f5 19.f3 but that is far from being safe, for example: Bh4+ 20.Ke2!? *(*Black is better after *20.g3 f4 21.Nf1 Bg5∓)* 20...f4 *(*It is not so effective for Black to continue with *20...fxe4 21.Qxe4 Bf5 22.Nxf5 gxf5 23.Qc2 Qg5 24.g3 Qg7 25.Re1±)* 21.Nf1 Qd7 22.Kd1 Qa7∞]

[It has become very fashionable lately for White to play aggressive lines with h2-h4. He cantry 18.h4!? right now, but the consequences of that move are absolutely unpredictable. We will have to remind our readers that we recommend that method of seizing the initiative only considering some concrete features of the position. For example, in the Radjabov variation, which we analyzed in out previous chapter, Black's bishop was on the d7-square and it was covering the seventh rank for Black's queen rook. That circumstance was quite advantageous for White's attacking chances, therefore, we recommend h2-h4 in numerous lines.]

b2b) **18...Bh6** That is a logical preparatory move. Black is not in a hurry to advance his f-pawn and he retreats his bishop to a safer square. At least, there it would not come under attack with tempo after f2-f4. The drawback of that move is that it is a bit too slow.

[b2a) 18...f5 Diagram # Black is playing quite systematically according to his plan.

A) 19.exf5 Let us see what might happen later. It is not good for Black to play here

A1) It is stronger for Black to opt for 19...gxf5 after which White has two possibilities. He obtains no advantage with

A1a) It is more promising for White to play 20.Qh5! Bd7 21.Rfa1! *(*In the first game, in which taht variation was played, White ried *21.Kh1?!* but after *Be8 22.Qh3 f4 23.Bd3 Qd7∓* Hamdouchi - Cherniaev, Cannes 1997, he had nothing to brag about.*;* It is not advantageous for White to continue with *21.Ra3 e4! 22.f4?! exf3 23.Rxf3 Ne5 24.Rg3 h6 25.h4 Be8 26.Qd1 f4 27.Rh3 Bd7!∓;* as well as *21.Ra2 Be8 22.Qh3 f4 23.Bd3 Qd7 24.Bf5 Qf7 25.Be6 Qh5 26.Qxh5 Bxh5 27.Nc4 Nd8 28.Bd7 Bf7 29.Rd1 Bxd5 30.Rxd5 Rxb3 31.g3 Nb7=)*

A1a1) In case of 21...Be8 White regroups his forces comfortably with 22.Qd1! f4 23.Nf1 e4 This move weakens the a1-h8 diagonal, but White is clearly better after *(23...f3 24.gxf3! Bh5 25.Be2 Rg8 26.Kh1 Bf7 27.Ng3±)* 24.Nd2 Bg6 25.Bf1 e3 *(*In case of *25...Re8* it is completely safe for White to play *26.Nc4 e3 27.Nxa5 Nxa5 28.Rxa5 exf2+ 29.Kxf2 Be4 30.Qd4+ Re5 31.b4±)* 26.Nf3± and he neutralizes his opponent's activity and he obtains the advantage.;

A1a2) We must also analyze the move 21...e4! since it poses the greatest problems for White. If 22.Qd1 then *(*Besides 22 Qd1, White can play passively *22.Nf1 Rg8! 23.Qe2 Rg6 24.Kh1 Qf8 25.R4a3 Rh6 26.Kg1 Qg7 27.Ng3 Qe5∞* and although the position remains unclear, Black has the initiative. So, all these lines show that after 19 exf5, Black manages somehow to solve his problems, although not effortlessly, therefore I consider the move 19 Qd3!? more precise. *)* 22...f4 and later it is possible to play 23.Nc2

A1a21) 23...f3 24.g3 Qe8 since then White has the resource 25.Nde3!? with the idea after Qe5 to regroup his forces with the help of 26.Bd5! combining his threats with the indirect protection of the c3-

pawn: Qxc3? *(26...Rbc8 27.Bxc6 Bxc6 28.Rxa5 Qg7 29.c4±)* 27.Rc4+-;

A1a22) 23...Qe8!
This is more precise than 24.Rxa5 White is practically forced to sacrifice the exchange, because after *(24.Nd4 Ne5 25.Rxa5 f3 26.g3 e3 27.R5a2 e2 28.Nxe2 Nxc4 29.bxc4 fxe2 30.Rxe2 Qg6∓* Black is even better. *)* 24...Nxa5 25.Rxa5 f3 26.g3⩲ - and White has a sufficient compensation for the exchange, but not more than that.;

A1a3) He attacks k's a5-pawn and the f1-square is free for White's knight. What should Black do? He loses after 21...f4? because of 22.Bd3+-;

A1b) 20.f4 exf4 21.Nc2 *(*But not *21.Nxf4? Qb6 22.Qd3 Re8*-+ Makarova - Sterliagova, Serpukhov 2003. *)* because of 21...Bd7!
That is an important inclusion for Black, since the usual move *(21...Ne5* is not so convincing. *)* 22.Ra3 Ne5 23.Nxf4 Nxc4 24.bxc4 Rb2 and White has nothig better than to maintain the balance with the line: 25.Nd3 Rb8 26.Nf4=;

A2) 19...Bxf5 20.Nxf5 gxf5 *(*or *20...Rxf5 21.g3 Bh6 22.Bd3 Rf7 23.Be4±* Sott - Novotny, Klatovy 1998. *)* 21.Qh5 e4 22.Rfa1 Bf6 23.g3 Bg7 24.f4⩲;

B) 19.Qd3!? Diagram # This is an original decision. White should not be in a hurry to clarify the situation in the centre. It is much more popular for him to play the move

B1) About 19...Bh6 - see 18... Bh6.;

B2) In case of 19...fxe4 20.Qxe4 White achieves what he is after. The computer game The King - The Baron, Leiden 2006, continued with: Be6 *(*If *20...Bf5* then *21.Nxf5 gxf5 22.Qe2 Qd7 23.Qh5 Qg7 24.Rd1⩲* with superior prospects for White. *)* 21.Qd3 Qd7 22.Bb5! Bxe3 23.Nxe3 Bxb3 24.Rxa5 Qb7 25.Bxc6 Qxc6 26.Ra6 Rb6 27.Rxb6 Qxb6 28.Rb1 - and Black came under a deadly pin and following Ra8 29.c4 Ra3 30.c5! dxc5 31.Qc3 Kg8 32.Qxe5 Qe6 33.Qxc5± White gradually realized his extra pawn.;

B3) Black's attempt to advance the f-pawn as quickly as possible should not worry White too much - 19...Bxe3 20.Qxe3 f4 21.Qd3 f3 because after 22.g3 he maintains the advantage after the straightforward line h5 *(*or *22...Be6 23.Re1 Qd7 24.Re3 Bg4 25.Qd1!? Kg7 26.Rd3 h5 27.Ne3 Rf6 28.Ra2⩲)* 23.Rd1 h4 24.Ne3! with the following eventual developments hxg3 25.hxg3 Rf6 26.Nd5 Rf8 27.b4! Kg7 28.b5 Na7 *(*It would not work for Black to play *28...Qg5 29.bxc6 Rh8* because of *30.Nf6!*

Qxf6 31.Rxa5+-) 29.Rda1 Bb7 30.Rxa5 Nc8 31.Bb3 Qd7 32.Bd1 Bxd5 33.exd5 Qg4 34.R1a4±;

B4) It would be interesting for Black to try 19...Be6!? Here, in comparison to the variations we have analyzed before with a black bishop on e6, White's queen is on d3 and not on the f3-square. Now, White can fight for the advantage with the help of the move 20.Rd1!? (not weakening the shelter of his king) *(*or with the help of the already well tested line *20.f3!? Bh6 21.Rd1 fxe4 22.Qxe4 Bf5 23.Nxf5 gxf5 24.Qe2 Rb7 25.Kh1 Ne7* Aginian - Kucypera, Mureck 1998, and later *26.Qd3! Ng6 27.Rda1±)* 20...Qd7 21.f3 Qa7 22.Kh1 Bxe3 23.Nxe3 Bxc4 24.Rxc4 f4 25.Rxc6 fxe3 26.c4±;

B5) 19...f4 20.Nc2 f3 Diagram # *(*After *20...Bh4* White can begin to concentrate cold-bloodedly his forces against Black's a6-pawn, since it is evident that Black's attacking resources are insufficient, for example: *21.Rfa1 Qg5 22.Bb5 Rxb5 23.Qxb5 Bh3 24.Ne1 Bxg2 25.Nxg2 f3 26.Qf1±)* 21.g3 Black's f3-pawn is a potential weakness.

B5a) White is better after 21...h5 Szilagyi - Balogh, Hungary 2001, 22.Rfa1 h4 23.Ne1 hxg3 24.hxg3 Bg4 25.Bb5±;

B5b) In the game Brundisch - Ilinca, ICCF 2003, Black played 21...Bh3 22.Rfa1 Qc8 23.Ne1

B5b1) White can counter 23...Qg4 with the line: 24.Nc7! Qd7 25.Nxf3 Rxf3 26.Qxf3 and here he wins the exchange: Qxc7 *(*or *26...Bg4 27.Qf7±)* 27.g4±;

B5b2) 23...Bg4 and here White could have combined his threats against the pawns on d6 and f3 with the variation: 24.Ne3!? Bh3 *(*Or *24...Bxe3 25.Qxe3±)* 25.N3c2 Bg4 26.Qxd6 Rf6 27.Qd3±;

B5c) 21...Qd7

B5c1) It also deserves attention for White to test here 22.Rd1!? Bd8 *(*Or *22...Qh3 23.Nde3 Be7 24.b4 axb4 25.cxb4±)* 23.Ne1 Qg7 24.Rd2 (threatening 25 Nxf3) Bg5 *(*It is bad for Black to play immediately *24...Bg4* because of *25.Ne3)* 25.Rda2 Bg4 26.h4 Bh6 27.Ne3 and here after Bxe3 *(*as well as following *27...Bh3 28.Nf1* and then Nh2, Black's defence would be very difficult. *)* 28.Qxe3 Qd7 29.R2a3 freeing the bishop from the protection of the b3-pawn,;

B5c2) 22.Rfa1 Qh3 23.Nde3± Diagram # It is not so hard to understand here that Black will fail to checkmate White's king, so that means that his aggressive play will backfire

and the key-role in the evaluation of the position will be decided by other factors. After

B5c21) It is more reliable for Black to play 23...Rf6 but then 24.Ne1 Bxe3 *(24...Qh5 25.b4! axb4 26.Ra8±)* 25.Qxe3 Bg4 26.Qg5 Kg7 27.Bd5 Bd7 28.Qe3± and once again Black is faced with a difficult and laborious defence.;

B5c22) 23...Rf4?! White plays 24.Qd5! Ba6 *(*It is bad for Black to opt for *24...Bd7 25.Bf1 Qh6 26.Qxd6+-)* 25.Qd1 *(*Black was hoping for *25.Bxa6? Rh4! 26.gxh4 Bf4-+)* 25...Rh4 *(*Or *25...Rbf8 26.Qf1±)* 26.Qxf3 Bb7 27.Qh1 Rh6 28.Qg2± and White ends up with a clear advantage.]

[About 18...Be6 19.Qf3 - see 16... Be6.]

19.Qd3

[If White plans to exchange on f5, then he should better choose the prophylactic move 19.Kh1 and that is a good alternative for him. After f5 20.exf5 gxf5 21.f4 Black must make up his mind. There might follow:

A) After 21...Bd7 Fomichenko - Mamjan, Krasnodar 2002, 22.Ra1 Bg7 23.Qd2± White has a slight edge.;

B) 21...Ne7 22.Qh5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5

B1) It is even more dangerous for Black to play 23...Bg7 24.Rfa1! - since Ra8 will be countered by White with *(*while if *24...exf4* then *25.Rxa5 Be5 26.Ra7 Rb7 27.Ra8±* Ibragimov - Andreev, Tomsk 1997, and again Black is faced with big problems. *)* 25.b4;

B2) 23...Bxf4 24.Nxf4 exf4 25.Qf3 Bb7 26.Qxf4 Be4 27.Rd1± - Black has so many pawn-islands that he must comply with passive defence.;

C) Finally, in case of 21...Qe8 as it was played in the game Saunina - Savushkina, Orsk 2000, White has at his disposal a tactical resource - 22.Bb5! and following Bd7 *(*The exchange-sacrifice *22...Rxb5? 23.Nc7 Qg6 24.Nxb5 Bxf4* is not convincing in view of *25.Raxf4! exf4 26.Nd5* with a variation like *Ba6 27.Nxf4 Qf6 28.c4 Bxb5 29.cxb5 Nd4 30.b6 Rb8 31.Nh5 Qe5 32.Re1 Qc5 33.Re7*+- which illustrates Black's difficulties.*;* If *22...exf4* then *23.Nc4 Bg7 24.Re1±)* 23.Nc4! (The bishop on b5 is untouchable as before.) Qg6 24.Ncb6 Rg8 25.Ra2 The g2-square has been fortified just in time. Be8 26.Ba4 Rg7 27.Nc4 Qe6 28.Raf2± with a positional advantage for White.;

D) 21...Qh4?! This is a dubious decision. 22.Be2 e4 Ding - Rybenko, Ulan Bator 2002, 23.Rc4! Bd7 24.Rg1 and amazingly enough, Black is in a zugzwang in a board full of pieces! His position is very bad too after

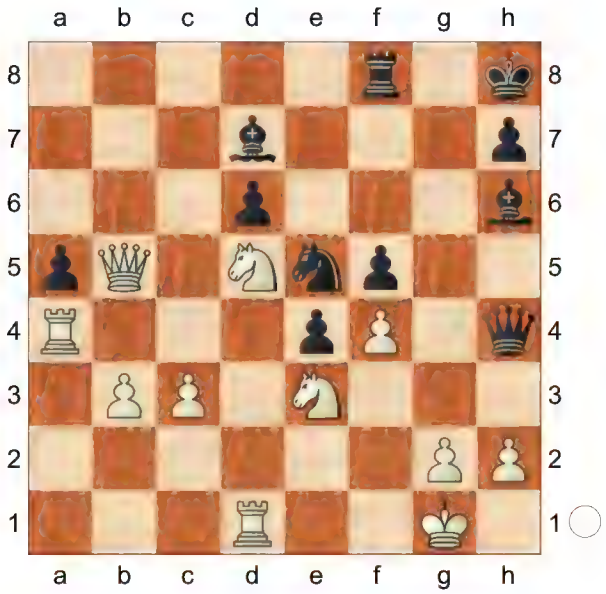
D1) as well as following 24...Rbc8 25.g3 Qd8 26.g4 fxg4 27.Bxg4±;
D2) or 24...Bxf4 25.g3 Bxg3 26.Rxg3 Ne5 *(*or *26...f4 27.Rxe4+-)* 27.Rc7 Rg8 28.Rxd7 Rxg3 29.Nxf5 Qh3 30.Nxg3 Qxd7 31.Nxe4± - and White has a winning position in all the variations.;
D3) 24...Rg8?! 25.Rxc6 Bxc6 26.Nxf5+-]

19...f5

[Black can play 19...Bd7 forcing White's rook to abandon the fourth rank. In that case after 20.Ra2 f5 the game transposes to the Radjabov variation - see 15...Bd7 16 Nce3 Rb8 17 b3 Kh8 18 0-0 g6 19 Qd3 f5 20 Ra2 Bh6.]

20.Rd1!? A similar position (only with the inclusion of the moves Bd7 and Ra2) was played in the game Anand - Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2007, and we analyzed it in out previous chapter. White should better follow the plan, which was realized successfully by the Indian grandmaster, in this position as well. **20...f4**

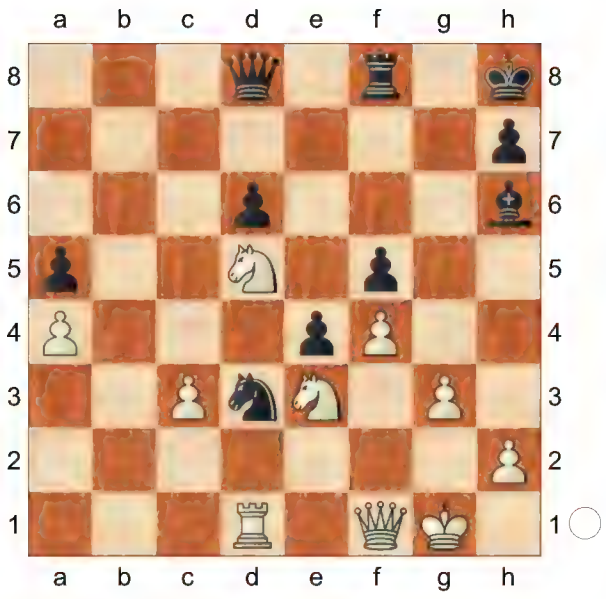
[It is not so good for Black to play 20...Qh4 when his rook is on a4 (analogously to the above-mentioned game), because of 21.exf5 e4 *(*Or *21...Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Rxf5 23.Qe2* and Black cannot play *Rbf8?* due to *24.Bb5+-)* 22.Qf1 gxf5 23.Bb5 If
A) It is also insufficient for Black to opt for 23...Ne5?! 0.66/18 23...f4 0.00 24.f4 Rxb5 1.40/19 *(24...Be6!±* 0.64/20 *)* 25.Qxb5±
A1) In case of 25...Bxf4 1.96/14 25...Bd7 1.08 26.Nxf4 Qxf4 27.Qe2? 0.11/22 Wards off Nf3+ *(27.Qb6+-* 1.91/27 *)* 27...Rg8= And now ...Nf3+ would win. 28.Kh1 Black must now prevent Qd2! Qh6 29.Nd5 Strongly threatening Rf1! Ng4 30.h3 Rf1! is the strong threat. e3 1.50/24 *(30...Bb7=* 0.02/28 remains equal. *31.Rxa5 f4 32.Nxf4 Qxf4 33.hxg4 Rxg4)* 31.Rf1!± Black's attack reaches its dead end.;
A2) 25...Bd7



26.Qf1! Bxa4 27.bxa4 Nd3 28.g3 Qd8

(Diagram)

29.Rb1! Qd7 30.Rb5± - White has managed to occupy important key-squares. Whenever Black is not in a hurry to clarify the situation in the centre, then as I have already mentioned, the White players should follow the example of the games Topalov - Kasparov, Leon 1998 and Anand - Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2007. At first,



White must take care of some prophylactic -Ra4-a2 and f2-f3 with the idea to stabilize the centre and to protect his second rank in case Black plays actively on the kingside. After that, he should start attacking Black's weaknesses and mostly his pawns on a5 and d6.;

B) 23...Na7 then 24.Ba6! -0.54/26 *(24.Be2*= 0.06/21 *)* 24...Bd7∓ 25.Rxa5 -1.25/20 *(25.g3∓* -0.36/23 *Qd8 26.Ra2)* 25...f4!∓ 26.Nc4 f3? 1.75/19 *(26...Nc6∓* -1.11/21 keeps the pressure on. *27.Rb5 Rbd8)* 27.g3+- Qg4 28.Nde3± and White ends up with extra material.]

21.Nc2 f3 22.g3 Bd7 23.Ra2±

Diagram # A similar situation arose in variation b2a. Black has no real attacking prospects, White will soon exert pressure against Black's weaknesses, and his f3-pawn has just become one more of them.

CONCLUSION In our final chapter, we have dealt with practically the main line of the Chelyabinsk variation, which is frequently played more than a quarter of a century. Tournament practice has shown that White's natural way of developing his initiative - 16...Kh8 17 0-0, does not proise him much after 17... f5, because Black thus manages to activate his forces. White's attempts to neutralize his opponent's counterplay by exchanges often lead to an almost completeexhaustion of available resources. Therefore, I believe that at the contemporary stage of development of that variation, White's hope of obtaining an advantage should be focused on a relatively new plan, based on keeping the position relatively closed. That is the idea behind the move 17 Nce3! - it not only prevents the immediate advance 17...f5, but what is tremendously important is that Black fails to acomplish the typical freeing maneuver with the line: 17...Bxe3 18 Nxe3 Ne7 19 0-0 f5 20 exf5 Nxf5 21 Nxf5 Bxf5 22 Qd5, since he thus loses his a5-pawn. Later, White must hold on to his blocking construction on the central outposts e4 and d5. That plan might seem a bit slow; nevertheless, it is very unpleasant for Black, because he cannot coordinate his pieces in that situation. The connection between his two flanks has been disrupted. The variations we have analyzed show that Black's counterplay on the kingside is not so dangerous for White if he plays carefully, while Black will have problem with his compromised pawn-structure to the end of the game. He will need to find improvements in this variation!

B33

☐ **N,N**
■ **Chapter**
[MH]

Chapter
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 Be6 Diagram # The English master H. Bird first played this ancient line in the 19th century and later, during the sixties of the past century, it was a regular opening weapon of GM B. Larsen. Sometimes the name of that line is connected with these two players. **9.Nc4!** White activates his knight, increasing the pressure against the d6-pawn and he thus emphasizes the effect of the possible exchange on f6. Black has a choice here between the outdated move a) 9...Nd4 and the contemporary line b) 9...Rc8! b) **9...Rc8!** Diagram # This is an idea of GM Larsen. Black completes the development of his queenside and he takes the c-file under control.

[a) 9...Nd4 Diagram # Thi s move used to be popular. Presently it has almost disappeared from practice and the reason is that Black's centralized knight will be repelled later with the move c2-c3 and he can hardly prevent that. 10.Bxf6

A) Black has problems after 10...gxf6 11.Ne3 f5 *(*About *11...Rc8 12.Bd3* - see 9...Rc8.*; 11...Bh6 12.Bd3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Nc6 14.Qf3±* Wolff - Shtern, USA 1986. *)* 12.exf5 Nxf5 13.Nxf5 Bxf5 because of 14.Qf3 Qc8 Trautz - Adamczyk, corr. 2003. *(*Black loses immediately after *14...Qd7? 15.Nd5+-;* White is clearly better too following *14...Bxc2 15.Rc1 Bg6 16.Qxb7↑)* 15.Be2!?

A1) It is too dangerous for Black to try 15...Bxc2 16.Rc1 Ba4 *(*or *16...Bg6 17.0-0±)* 17.0-0 Bc6 18.Nd5±;

A2) 15...Be7 16.0-0-0± with initiative for White.;

B) 10...Qxf6 11.Nb6

B1) It is insufficient for Black to try the active line: 11...Rd8 12.Ncd5 Bxd5 13.Nxd5 Qg6 14.f3 Be7 *(*Or *14...Nc6 15.Nc7+ Kd7 16.Nd5±* Eiben - Kovari, Slovakia 1997. *)* 15.c3 Bh4+ *(*It is not advisable for Black to opt for *15...Ne6 16.Qa4+ Rd7 17.b4±)* 16.g3 Bxg3+ 17.hxg3 Qxg3+ 18.Kd2 Nxf3+ 19.Kc2± Husted - F. Hansen, Denmark 1991 and Black's threats have been neutralized.;

B2) 11...Rb8 12.Ncd5 Qd8 *(*Black would lose his castling rights after *12...Qg6 13.Nc7+ Kd8 14.Nxe6+ fxe6 15.Qd3±* Daurelle - Fanghui Feng, corr. 1998,*;* or *12...Qh4 13.Nc7+ Kd8 14.Nxe6+ fxe6 15.Qd3±* Kraujunas - Lindberg, corr. 1997. *)* 13.c3

B2a) White can counter 13...Nc6 with the powerful argument 14.Qa4! while in case of Be7 *(*About *14...Bxd5 15.Nxd5* - see 13...Bxd5. *)* he has the strong response 15.Bxa6! Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Ra8 17.Qb5+- Mueller - Zunker,

Oberursel 1972.;
B2b) 13...Bxd5 14.Nxd5
B2b1) The endgame is worse for Black after 14...Nc6 15.Qa4 Qa5 *(*Or *15...Be7 16.g3!? 0-0 17.Bh3±* Cygon - Budt, Detmold 1976.*; 15...Rc8 16.Be2 Be7 17.Bg4 Rb8 18.0-0±* Cravero - Grosse Kloenne, corr. 2000. *)* 16.Qxa5 Nxa5 17.Be2 Be7 18.0-0 Rc8 19.Rfd1± Telleria - Braso, Uruguay 1988.;
B2b2) 14...Ne6 15.g3 Be7 16.a4!? 0-0 17.Bh3 Re8 18.0-0± This position was reached in the game Tal - Wade, Reykjavik 1964. The eight World Champion obtained a great positional advantage and he won the game promptly, with some assistance from his opponent, indeed - Bf8 19.a5 Ng5 20.Bf5 g6? Black blundered the exchange here. 21.Bd7! Re6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nb6 h5 24.Qe2 Be7 25.f4 Nf7 26.f5 1:0.]

[At first, we will convince you that White's task is much easier after Black's other possibilities: White has a clear advantage after the anti-positional move 9...Bxc4?! 10.Bxc4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5± Unzicker - Dunphy, Madrid 1957.]

[The line 9...Qc7?! can hardly be recommended (Blak's queen is misplaced here.). 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ne3 Ne7 12.Bd3 h5 *(*Or *12...Bh6 13.0-0 Bxe3 14.fxe3±* Kosmac - Varga, Bled 1996. *)* 13.Qf3± Byvshev - Reshko, Leningrad 1957.]

[The move 9...b5?! looks seeminlgly active, but it only creates weaknesses for Black, since White can undermine his opponent's queenside pawns with a2-a4 at an opportune moment. There might follow: 10.Bxf6
A) In case of 10...Qxf6
White should not play
A1) since it is much stronger for him to follow with 11.Ne3! Nd4 *(*Or *11...Qd8 12.Ncd5±* with an advantage for White, Bednarski - Kavalek, Krakow 1984. *)* 12.Ncd5 Bxd5 13.Nxd5 Qg6 Podlesnik - Starc, Bled 1994, 14.f3±;
A2) 11.Nxd6+ Bxd6 12.Qxd6 Nd4 13.Bd3 Qg5⩲;
B) 10...gxf6 11.Ne3 Diagram # Black has tried numerous possibilities here, but he fails to equalize in any of them: About
B1) The line 11...Nd4 12.Ncd5 f5 loses the exchange for Black after 13.exf5 Nxf5 14.Nxf5 Bxf5 15.Qf3! Bxc2 16.Nc7+ Qxc7 17.Qxa8+ Ke7 18.Qxa6± Casella - Simpson, Long Island 1995.;
B2) It is too passive for Black to play 11...Bg7 12.Bd3 0-0 13.0-0 Rc8 14.Ncd5± Melnikov - Vik. Ivanov, St Petersburg 2006.;
B3) If 11...Ne7 as it was played in the game Brondum - Andersen, Copenhagen 1979, then 12.Qf3 Bg7 *(12...Ng6 13.Ncd5±)* 13.Bd3±;

B4) Finally, in case of 11...Bh6 12.Ncd5 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Ne7 *(*It is too risky for Black to opt for *13...Qa5+ 14.c3 0-0-0 15.Be2 Ne7* Opychaneyj - Jarmoluk, Argentina 1993, *16.a4 b4 17.Rc1±)* White counters with the thematic line 14.a4 b4 *(*Black would not solve his problems with *14...bxa4 15.Rxa4 d5* Ellison - Nicholson, Port Erin 2000, because of *16.Qf3±)* 15.Qf3 Honfi - Piket, Wijk aan Zee 1970 and he obtains a clear advantage.;

B5) 11...Be7 - see 9...Be7.]

[After 9...Be7?! White plays 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ne3 Diagram # That position has been tested numerous times in practice, but the results were terrible for Black. Here are some of the possible developments: About

A) 11...Qb6?! That is a loss of time. 12.Ncd5 Qa5+ *(*Or *12...Qxb2 13.Rb1 Qxa2 14.Nc7+ Kd7 15.Nxa8 Rxa8 16.Rxb7+±)* 13.c3± Esplana - Alosilla, Peru 1999.;

B) 11...0-0 12.Ncd5 Kh8 13.Be2 Rg8 14.0-0± Leiros Vila - Lucas, corr. 1985.;

C) 11...Rc8 12.Ncd5 Bxd5 Suetin - Olbrich, Moscow 1991, *(*About *12...b5* - see 11...b5;*; 12...f5 13.exf5 Bxd5* Nunn - Cox, Norway 1972, *14.Nxd5±)*;

D) 11...b5 12.Ncd5 Qa5+ *(*Or *12...Rc8 13.c3 Na5 14.a4±* Wasnetsky - Nosal, Mannheim 1990;*; 12...Rb8 13.Be2 Qd7 14.Bg4±* Maucci - Plazaola, Buenos Aires 2002. *)* 13.c3± Dolgener - Gierden, Dortmund 1988.;

E) 11...Nd4 12.Bd3 Qd7 *(*Or *12...h5 13.Ncd5±* Kotronias - Taksrud, Gausdal 1991.*; 12...Qa5 13.0-0±* Westermeier - Hacker, Germany 1979.*; 12...Rc8 13.Ncd5 0-0 14.c3±* Melnikov - Spanoche, Eforie Nord 1999. *)* 13.Ncd5 Bxd5 *(*Or *13...Bd8 14.c3 Nc6 15.Qf3±* Pitkanen - Rantanen, Naantali 1997. *)* 14.Nxd5 Bd8 *(*Or *14...Qc6 15.c3 Ne6 16.Qf3 Nc5 17.Bc2 Nd7 18.Bb3±* Muslic - Segovic, Pula 2002. *)* 15.Qh5 Rc8 *(*Or *15...0-0 16.c3 Nc6 17.Be2±* Gazik - Matejov, Slovakia 2001. *)* 16.c3 Ne6 17.Be2± Blau - Plater, Hilversum 1947.;

F) 11...Qa5 12.Bd3 Nb4 *(12...0-0-0 13.0-0 h5 14.Ncd5±* Wang - Mai, Wuxi 2005. *)* 13.a3 Nxd3+ 14.Qxd3 White's control over the d5 and f5-outposts emphasizes the superiority of his couple of knights over Black's bishop pair. Rc8 *(14...0-0-0 15.0-0±* Ferreira - Romao, Portugal 1993. *)* 15.0-0 Rg8 16.Ncd5 Qc5 17.c3± Winterstein - Schwartz, Giessen 1991. All these variations confirm that after Black captures on f6 with a pawn, his bishop is misplaced on e7.;

G) 11...Qd7 12.Ncd5 Bd8 13.Qh5 Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Nd4 15.Bd3 - see 11...Nd4.]

[The game Hove - Graham, Minnesota 1996, followed with the move 9...Rb8 with the idea to remove the rook from an eventual threat on the b6-square. In that case, White's best line seems tobe 10.Nd5! Bxd5 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 *(*Or *11...gxf6 12.Qxd5±)* 12.Qxd5± and he occupies the central outpost.

Meanwhile, Black's rook is misplaced on b8.]

[After the not so wwell analyzed variation 9...h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 *(*It is illogical for Black to play *10...gxf6?! 11.Ne3±* Tarnowski - Fabian, Glucholazy 1963 and White remains with a clear advantage. *)* 11.Nb6 Rb8 12.Ncd5± Ribli - Zinn, Zalaegerszeg 1969, there arises a situation quite similar to the one we will analyze later after 9...Rc8 10 Bxf6 Qxf6 11 Nb6 Rb8 12 Ncd5 - see variation b1. The difference is only that Black's pawn is on h6 and that is much rather in favour of White, because Black's counterplay is connected with the pawn-advance f7-f5 and it would lead to an additional weakening of his light squares on the kingside.]

10.Bxf6 We will analyze b1) 10...Qxf6 and b2) 10...gxf6. b2) **10...gxf6** Diagram # This move is much more popular. Black opens the g-file and he plans to deploy his king's bishop to h6.

[b1) 10...Qxf6 Black does not allow doubling of his pawns, but he enables his opponent to deploy his knights on the important b6 and d5-outposts with tempo. 11.Nb6 *(*White should better refrain from winning a pawn, because after *11.Nxd6+ Bxd6 12.Qxd6 Rd8⩲* followed by Nd4, Black obtains an excellent counterplay. *)* 11...Rb8 *(*Black should better keep the d8-square for his queen, therefore it is dubious for him to try *11...Rd8?! 12.Ncd5 Qg6 13.Nc7+ Ke7 14.Ncd5+ Ke8 15.Qd3 Be7 16.0-0-0±* Eitel - Ennenbach, Goch 1997. *)* 12.Ncd5

A) If 12...Qg6?! then 13.Qd3 Be7 *(*Or *13...Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Be7* Jabot - Felber, corr. 1995, *15.Nc7+ Kd7 16.Nd5±)* 14.Nc7+! Kd8 15.Ncd5 and Black loses his castling rights. White is better after

A1) as well as following 15...f5 16.0-0-0 fxe4 17.Qc3! Bxd5 *(*Or *17...Rf8 18.Bxa6! Rxf2 19.Bxb7 Rxb7 20.Qxc6 Ra7 21.a4 Bg4 22.Nc4±)* 18.Nxd5 Rc8 19.Kb1 Rf8 20.Qb3! b5 21.Qa3 Nb8 *(*It is even worse for Black to play *21...Rxf2 22.Qxa6 Rxc2 23.Qb6+ Ke8 24.Kxc2 Nb4+ 25.Kb1 e3+ 26.Bd3 Nxd3 27.Qxb5++-)* 22.Qa5+ Ke8 23.Qb6± and Black had great problems in the game Herrera - Merino Garcia, Spain 1996.;

A2) 15...Ke8 16.g3 h5 17.0-0-0± Bindrich - Rovid, Budapest 2004,;

B) 12...Qd8 13.c3 White takes control over the d4-square and he is threatening Qa4 in some variations.

B1) After the careless line 13...g6?! 14.Qa4! the temporary weakening of the f6-square does not allow Black to retreat with his bishop to d7, otherwise White has a tactical srike on the a6-square: Bg7 *(14...Bh6 15.Bxa6! 0-0 16.Bb5 f5 17.0-0 Kh8 18.Rad1±* Joecks - Chekhov, Germany 1997. *)* 15.Bxa6! Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Ra8 17.Qb5 Rxa6 18.Qxb7+- Cifuentes Parada;;

B2) It is not so popular for Black to play 13...Ne7 because White can choose between the calm line: 14.Bc4 *(*and the more

ambitious *14.Qa4+ Bd7* Zesch - Priebe, Berlin 2002, *15.Qb4!? Nxd5 16.Nxd5±* with superior prospects. *)* 14...Nxd5 15.Qa4+ Bd7 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.Bxd5±;

B3) 13...Be7 14.Bc4 0-0 *(*About *14...Bg5 15.0-0* - see 14...0-0. *)* 15.0-0

B3a) About 15...Kh8 16.Qe2 Bg5 *(*Or *16...g6* Salm - Henri, corr. 1985, *17.a4 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.f4±)* 17.a4 -see 15...Bg5.;

B3b) White is clearly better after 15...Bxd5 16.Nxd5 b5 17.Bb3 Bg5 18.Qd3 Kh8 19.Rad1 Na5 20.Nb4 Rb6 21.Bd5± Palevich - Schlosser, corr. 1986.;

B3c) 15...Bg5 Diagram # 16.a4! White has completed his development and he consolidates his achievements on the queenside.

B3c1) It is only a transposition of moves after 16...a5 17.Qe2 g6 18.Rad1 Kh8 - see 16... Kh8,;

B3c2) or 16...g6 17.Qe2 Kh8 - see 16...Kh8.;

B3c3) It is insufficient for Black to try 16...Bxd5 17.Nxd5 Ne7 18.Qb3 Nxd5 19.Bxd5 b6 20.Rfd1 g6 21.Rd3± Schmidt Schaeffer - Brameyer, Germany 2002.;

B3c4) After 16...Ne7 Ciolac - San Marco, Bethune 1992, White can play simply 17.a5±;

B3c5) It deserves attention for Black to opt for 16...Qe8!? White's most principled reaction seems to be 17.Nc7 Qe7 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qg4 threatening Black's e6-pawn. The move Rbe8 can be countered by White with the line *(*while in case of *19...Nd8* White maintains his initiative with *20.g3 Bh6 21.Rad1 Rf6 22.Rd3±* Tong - Lim, Singapore 1990. *)* 20.Bxe6+ Qxe6 21.Qxg5±;

B3c6) 16...Kh8 Black has no other counterplay except the pawn-advance f7-f5, but he has tried some other lines too. 17.Qe2

B3c61) Black has numerous possibilities here, but neither of them is sufficient for equality. He can try to redeploy his knight to the kingsidewith 17...Ne7 18.a5 Ng6 but that enables White to attack successfully his opponent's backward d6-pawn 19.Rfd1 Bh6 20.Ne3 Nf4 21.Qf3 g6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nec4± Wise - Leveille, corr. 1992.;

B3c62) The prophylactic move 17...a5 has its drawbacks as well. In case of 18.Rad1 White is better after

B3c621) as well as following 18...Bh6

19.Kh1
B3c6211) If 19...Ne7?! then 20.Nxe7 Qxe7 *(*or *20...Qxb6 21.Nf5±* Nunn - Manor, London 1987. *)* 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.Nc4±;
B3c6212) 19...g6 20.Ba2± and White's queenside initiative increases.;
B3c622) 18...g6 19.Ba2! f5 *(*Or *19...Ne7 20.Qb5±; 19...Bh6 20.Nc4 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Ndb6±)* 20.exf5 gxf5 Friedman - Hausrath, Groningen 1996, 21.Nc4 f4 22.f3±;
B3c63) The move 17...Qe8!? is interesting here, just like on the previous move, and it was played in the game Janovsky - Sveshnikov, Moscow 1987. White can increase the pressure against the d6-square with 18.Ba2!? Bd8 19.Nc4 Qd7 20.Rad1±;
B3c64) If Black plays 17...f5 without preparation, then after 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.a5 e4 White has the powerful maneuver 20.Bb3!
B3c641) It is not any better for Black to try 20...Ne5 21.Bc2 Nd3 22.f4 exf3 23.Rxf3±;
B3c642) or 20...Ne7 21.Ne3 Bg6 22.Be6! Rf6 23.Qg4±;
B3c643) while in case of 20...Qe8 21.Bc2 Bd8 it is good for White to continue with 22.Rae1 *(*or *22.Ra4!?±)* 22...Nxa5 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Bxb6 25.Nxb6 Qb5 26.Qb4!?± Perz - Necula, corr. 2001,;
B3c644) 20...Re8 21.Ba4! it becomes clear that Black is incapable of protecting hs queenside. There might follow Bh6 *(*or *21...Re5 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Nb4 Qe8 24.Nc4 Re6 25.Nxa6 Rb7 26.Nb4±* and Black has no compensation for his material losses. *)* 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Nb4±;
B3c65) 17...g6 18.Rad1
B3c651) About 18...a5 - see 17...a5.;
B3c652) In case of the immediate move 18...f5 Travi - Henry, corr. 1979, 19.exf5 gxf5 *(*After *19...Bxf5!? 20.Bd3 Be6 21.Be4 Ne7 22.a5* White has

a slight, but long-lasting pressure. *)*
White has the resource 20.Ne3! Bxe3 *(*Or *20...Qe7 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Nec4 Rbd8 23.f4! Bf6 24.Qd2!?)* 21.fxe3

B3c6521) 21...Qxb6 22.Bxe6 Ne7 *(*or *22...f4 23.Rxd6 fxe3 24.Rd7! Rxf1+ 25.Kxf1 Rf8+ 26.Ke1! Nb8 27.Rf7 Rxf7 28.Bxf7 Nd7 29.Qg4 Nf6 30.Qg5 e4 31.h3±)* 23.a5! Qc5 24.Qd3 f4 25.Qxd6±;

B3c6522) 21...Bxc4 This exchange is in favour of White. 22.Nxc4 Rf6 23.Qd3 Qg8 24.Qd5± - and White is better, because of his dominance over the d5-outpost and Black's pawn-weaknesses on d6 and f5.;

B3c653) 18...Bh6 19.Kh1 f5 20.exf5 gxf5 *(*In case of *20...Bxf5* Reinaldo - M. Garcia, Nigran 1997, White can follow with *21.Bd3 Be6 22.Be4±)* 21.f4

B3c6531) In the game Isupov - Chekhov, Orel 1996, Black chose the less precise response 21...Rg8 White could have put that move under doubt with the line: 22.fxe5! dxe5 *(*After *22...Nxe5* it is very good for White to follow with *23.Bd3!±)* 23.Nb4! Qxb6 *(23...Bxc4 24.Nxc4±)* 24.Bxe6 Nd4 25.cxd4 Qxe6 26.dxe5± with a great advantage for White.;

B3c6532) 21...Bg7 22.b4± Diagram # Th at position was reached in the game Herrera - Cifuentes Parada, Cienfuegos 1996. After

B3c65321) Black would not have solved his problems with 22...Bxd5 23.Nxd5 e4 White has the undermining move 24.g4! and after fxg4 25.Qxg4 Qc8 *(*Or *25...Rg8 26.Rg1±; 25...b5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Bb3±; 25...Ne7 26.Rg1 Nf5 27.Rde1 b5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Bb3±)* 26.Qe2 Qf5 27.Rg1 Bh6 28.Rg4±

- Black has probles in all the variations.;
B3c65322) 22...Ne7 23.Nxe7 Qxe7 24.Bxe6 Qxe6 25.a5 Rbe8 26.Nd5± White obtained a stable positional edge.]

11.Bd3! That is the precise move order. White is not in a hurry to place his knight on e3, because Black can counter that with 11...Bh6. After 11 Bd3, we will analyze b2a) 1...Rg8 and b2b) 11...Ne7.
b2b) **11...Ne7** Diagram # Bla ck forces his opponent's knight to retreat to the e3-square (the resource Bh6 becomes even more effective then) and he increases his control over the vital squares d5 and f5.

[b2a) 11...Rg8 That is the most popular alternative for Black to the frequently played line 11...Ne7. 12.0-0 Diagram #

A) About 12...Ne7 13.Ne3 -see 11...Ne7.;

B) It would be in favour of White if Black tries 12...b5 13.Ne3 Nb4 Fossan - Qvortrup, Namsos 1995, 14.Ncd5±;

C) Black would not solve his problems with the aggressive line: 12...Bg4 13.Be2 Bh3 *(*If *13...f5* then *14.Bxg4 fxg4 15.Ne3 Qg5 16.Ncd5±* Servat - Sakurai, Neuquen 1986;*;* White maintains a stable edge after *13...Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nd4 15.Qd3±* Luecke - Bonnmann, Cologne 1989. *)* 14.Ne3 Nd4 *(*It is dubious for Black to try *14...f5?! 15.exf5 Bh6 16.Bf3±* Pedersen - Nilssen, Aarhus 2005. *)* in view of the accurate response by White 15.Kh1 Be6 16.Bd3 Bh6 17.Ncd5± Kindermann - Ahmels, Germany 1982, with a better game for him.;

D) 12...Bh6 13.Nd5

D1) The other possibility for Black is also in favour of his opponent 13...Nb4 14.Nxb4 Bxc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 Andersen - Heim corr. 1994, 16.Nd5! f5 *(16...Rxe4? 17.Qf3+-)* 17.exf5 Qg5 18.Ne3±;

D2) After 13...f5 White has the resource 14.Qh5! Bf8 15.Ncb6 f4! Black has no choice - *(15...Rb8 16.exf5+-)* 16.Nxc8 Bg4 17.Qxh7 Rg7 18.Qxg7! *(*But not *18.Qh8 Bxc8⩱)* 18...Bxg7 19.Ncb6± Matulovic - Arnason, Zemun 1983 - and White has a clear advantage with two rooks for a queen.;

D3) In case of 13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 it is also good for White to try 15.Qh5 Bf4 *(*Or *15...Bg5* Herbrechtsmeier - Steiger, Germany 1992, *16.h4 Bf4 17.Qxh7±)* 16.Qxh7 Kf8 Owczarzak - Stryjecki, Poraj 1997 and here 17.Ne3! Qb6 *(*It is too risky for Black to open the f-file: *17...Bxe3 18.fxe3 Nxd5 19.Be4±)* 18.Nf5 Nxd5 19.Rad1± and he ends up in a very difficult position.;

D4) 13...Bg4!? 14.Be2 Bh3 15.Nce3 Nb4!? Diagram # Black has an original possibility to deflect his opponent from protecting the g2-square, but it has not been tested in practice

yet. *(*In the game Klundt - Oechslein, Germany 1982, he chose *15...f5* but White could have countered that by transferring into a favourable endgame with the line: *16.Kh1! Bxe3 17.Nxe3 f4 18.gxh3 fxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 20.Rg1 Qxg1+ 21.Qxg1 Rxg1+ 22.Rxg1 Ke7 23.c3±)* 16.Bf3! *(*The principled line: *16.Nxb4 Bxe3 17.fxe3 Bxg2 18.Rf2 Bxe4+ 19.Kf1 Qd7 20.Bd3 Qh3+ 21.Ke2 Bg6!* leads to a rather unclear position. *)* 16...Nxd5 17.Nxd5± Black's temporary activity has been neutralized and White's prospects are superior.]

[About 11...Bg7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Ne3 Ne7 - see 11...Ne7.]

[It is premature for Black to play 11...Bh6?! in view of 12.Qh5 The game Stevanovic - Schinis, Yerevan 1996, followed with

A) It would be interesting for Black, but still not quite correct if he tries 12...Bf4!? 13.g3 Nd4 14.gxf4 Bxc4 15.0-0-0 Qa5 *(*Or *15...b5 16.Kb1 b4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Nd5±)* 16.Bxc4 Rxc4 17.Rd3± with an advantage for White.;

B) 12...Bg7 13.0-0 Ne7 14.Ne3 Qb6 15.Ncd5 Bxd5 16.exd5±]

[The move 11...Nd4?! is not justifiable for Black, just like on move 9. The position after White's natural move 12.Ne3 has been tested numerous times. His plan is simple - he must complete his development and then occupy the d5-outpost and push c2-c3. Black has nothing real to counter that plan with, for example:

A) 12...h5 13.0-0 h4 *(*Or *13...Be7 14.Ncd5±* Guerrero - Regue, Catalunia 1997. *)* 14.Ncd5 Bg7 15.c3 Nc6 16.Qf3! Rh6 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.exf5 Ne7 19.Be4± Bronstein - Pilnik, Moscow 1956.;

B) 12...Qb6 13.Ncd5 Qxb2 14.Nxf6+ Kd8 15.0-0± Hjartarson - Friojonsson, Iceland 1980.;

C) 12...Bg7 13.0-0 0-0 *(*Or *13...b5 14.Ncd5 f5 15.exf5 Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Qg5* Hessmer - Eiselt, DDR 1974, *17.f4±)* 14.Ncd5 Kh8 *(*Or *14...f5 15.exf5 Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Rc5 17.Be4±* Kasimdzhanov - Bentout, Metz 1997. *)* 15.Qh5± Herb - Bouton, France 1999.;

D) 12...Qa5 13.0-0 Rxc3 *(*Or *13...h5 14.Ncd5±* Vehi - Riera, Manresa 1997. *)* 14.bxc3 Qxc3 15.Qh5 Bg7 16.a4 0-0 17.Rab1 Qc7 Royd - I. Ivanov, North Bay 1994, 18.Nd5 Qd7 19.c3 Nc6 20.Rfe1±;

E) 12...Rg8 13.0-0 Bh6 *(13...Rg6 14.Ncd5 Rh6 15.c3 Nc6 16.Qf3 Bg7 17.Rad1±* Korchnoi - Secchi, Cordoba 1960. *)* 14.Ncd5 Rg6 *(*Or *14...f5 15.exf5 Bxd5 16.Nxd5 Qg5 17.g3 Nxf5 18.c3 Rc5 19.Qb3 b5 20.a4±* Ochoa - Pacheco, Linares 1978. *)* 15.c3 Nc6 16.Nf5± Pokojowczyk - Quinteros, Polanica Zdroj 1977. White's advantage is indisputable in all the variations.;

F) 12...Bh6 13.0-0 0-0 *(*About *13...Rg8* - see 12...Rg8. *)* 14.Ncd5± Dely - Flesch, Hungary 1965.]

[Black tries sometimes to control the d5-square with the move 11...Nb4 but after 12.Ne3 Bh6 *(*The line *12...d5 13.exd5 Nxd5* leads to a transposition of moves - see 11... Ne7;*;* After *12...Nxd3+ 13.Qxd3 Qb6*

Szalai - Klausen, corr. 1991, it is promising for White to try *14.0-0±;* and if *12...Qb6 13.0-0 Bh6 14.Ned5 Bxd5* as it was played in the game Alava - Tahkavuori, Jyvaskyla 1993, then *15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5±* and White has the initiative in a position with opposite-coloured bishops. *)* 13.0-0 Rg8 *(*About *13...Qb6* - see 12...Qb6;*; 13...Bxe3 14.fxe3 Rg8 15.Rf2 Qb6 16.Qd2±* Blosze - Oechslein, corr. 1996;*; 13...Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3±)* 14.Ncd5 Bxe3 15.Nxe3± Nielsen - Hald, Farum 1993, Black fails to equalize despite the simplifications.]

12.Ne3

[White fails with the straightforward line: 12.Nxd6+? Qxd6 13.Bb5+ because of Nc6-+]

12...Bh6 Diagram #

[Opening of the centre with 12...d5?! 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Ncxd5 Bxd5 is too risky for Black. There might follow 15.0-0 Be6 *(*Black has also tried here *15...h5* Priborsky - Birklbauer, Aschach 2005, *16.Bf5 Be6 17.Qf3±;* as well as *15...Bc6 16.Qh5 Bc5 17.Bc4 Qe7* Parkanyi - Rovid, Hungary 1998, *18.Nf5 Qf8 19.Rad1 Rg8 20.Bd5±)* 16.Qf3 Qe7 17.Rad1 Bg7 18.Be4 Rc7 19.Rd3± Konguvel - George, Chennai 2000 and Black has rather weak light squares.]

[Black has tested in practice some other dubious lines like: 12...Qd7?! 13.Qf3 Bg7 14.Ncd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Qa4 16.0-0± Ciric -Eisinger, Oberhausen 1961,]

[or 12...h5?! 13.0-0 Qb6 14.Ncd5± Kudrin - Fitzpatrick, Columbus 1987,]

[or 12...Rc5?! 13.0-0 h5 14.Ncd5! Bxd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5± Gligoric - Littlewood, Hastings 1964.]

[In case of 12...Rg8 13.0-0 it would be more prudent for Black to choose the move

A) since after his other attempts White obtains the advantage much easier, for example: 13...Rg5?! 14.Qf3 Ng6 15.Kh1 h5 *(*Or *15...Nh4 16.Qe2±)* 16.Ncd5± Dely - Szilagyi, Budapest 1974.;

B) 13...Bh6 which we will analyze later - see 12...Bh6,]

[White maintains a clear edge after the rather modest line for Black: 12...Bg7 13.0-0 0-0 *(*About *13...Qb6* - see 12...Qb6;*; 13...Ng6 14.Ncd5 Bxd5 15.Nxd5 h5* Kroener - Eiselst, DDR 1974, *16.Qf3±)* 14.Qf3 Re8 15.Ncd5 Ng6 16.g3± Almasi - Rovid, Budapest 1993.]

[It is more principled for Black to try 12...Qb6 and White must sacrifice a pawn in answer to that 13.0-0! Qxb2 *(*About *13...Bh6 14.Ncd5* - see 12... Bh6;*;* It is inconsistent for Black to play *13...Bg7 14.Ncd5 Bxd5 15.exd5 0-0 16.Qh5 Ng6 17.Nf5±* Borngaesser - Gelzenleichter, Dortmund 1987,*;* or *13...Rg8 14.Ncd5 Bxd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.exd5 h6 17.a4±* Fishbein - Agdestein, Stavanger 1989 and he ends up in a difficult position. *)* 14.Ncd5 After Bxd5 both captures seem to be reasonable for White, but still it looks better for him to opt for 15.Nxd5!? Nxd5 16.exd5 White's bi shop is much stronger than its counterpart is, while Black's doubled extra pawn is completely immaterial. There might follow Qd4 *(*About *16...Rc7 17.Qf3 Ke7 18.a4! Qd4* - see 16...Qd4. *)*

17.Qf3

A) It is not better for Black to try 17...Bg7 18.a4 Rc7 19.Rfd1 Qc5 20.Rab1± Coleman - R. Thomas, Internet 1997;;

B) In case of 17...Qh4 18.Rab1 b5 White has the resource 19.a4!± Wittmann - Krustkalns, corr. 1976;;

C) It is only slightly better for Black to continue with 17...h5!? 18.Rab1 b5 but even then the endgame is better for White after 19.a4! Qxa4 *(*or *19...Qg4 20.Qxg4 hxg4 21.axb5 axb5 22.Rxb5±* Lakos - S. Horvath, Hungary 1997. *)* 20.Ra1 Qg4 21.Qxg4 hxg4 22.Rxa6±;

D) 17...Ke7 18.a4! That is an important intermediate move. Rc7 *(*Or *18...Bh6 19.Rfb1 Rc7 20.Ra3 Bd2 21.Rab3 Qa7 22.Rb6±* Paulucci - Perez, corr. 1980. *)* 19.Rfd1 Qc3 *(19...Qh4 20.Rdb1 Rg8 21.Ra3! Qg4 22.Bxh7±)* 20.Rab1 Qa5 21.Qe4± Mednis - Lombardy, Pasadena 1978. It is quite evident that White's initiative is powerful. His pressure along the b-file and his control over the light squares provide him with a more than sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn.]

13.0-0! White would not mind the exchange on e3, since he would exert powerful pressure along the opened f-file. **13...Bxe3**

[White maintains his advantage effortlessly in case of 13...Rc5 14.Qf3 Bg5 15.Ncd5± Lau - Enzmann, Dresden 1997,]

[or 13...Ng6 14.g3 Bxe3 15.fxe3 h5 *(*Or *15...Qb6 16.Qf3±)* 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 h4 18.Qg4± Kozamernik - Mlacnik, Bled 2000,]

[or 13...Qb6 14.Ned5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Bg7 *(*But not *15...Qxb2? 16.Ne4+-)* 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Ne4 Kh8 18.Ng3± Alves - Limayo, corr. 1997.]

[It looks more logical for Black to play 13...Rg8 After 14.Qf3 the following line is clearly in his favour:

A) Therefore Black must choose between 14...Ng6 15.g3 Nf4!? Kosten - Ammann, London 1988 and here White could have maintained his positional pressure with the line: 16.Ncd5 Kf8 *(*Or *16...Bxd5?! 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.exd5±)* 17.Rfd1 Nxd3 18.Rxd3 Bxe3 19.Nxe3±;

B) or 14...Bxe3 15.fxe3

B1) If 15...Rg6 then 16.Nd5 and Black has serious problems in all the variations: Nxd5 *(16...Bxd5 17.exd5 Rh6 18.c4 Qb6 19.Rf2±* Becker - Krege, Ditzingen 2003;*; 16...Ng8 17.h3 Kf8 18.a4±* Hamilton - Goldsmith, Adelaide 1980. *)* 17.exd5 Bg4 18.Qf2±;

B2) 15...Qb6 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 f5 *(*Black fails to protect his pawn anymore: *17...Rc7 18.Rae1±; 17...Ng6 18.Kh1±* Suresh - Mahesh, Cochin 2000. *)* 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.Qxf5 Qxe3+ 20.Kh1 Rc7 21.Qxh7 Qg5 22.Rf2 Rg7 *(*The king and rook endgame after *22...Qg6 23.Qxg6 Rxg6 24.Raf1* Oliveira - Vitor, Lisbon 1994, seems to be hopeless for Black, since he is a pawn down. *)* 23.Qh8+ Rg8 24.Qh3± Konguvel - Bhattacharyya, Calcutta 1994 and White remains

with a material advantage.;

C) 14...Rg6?! 15.Ncd5 Nc6 16.c3 Kf8 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Nf5± Bresciani - Agnelli, Bratto 1997.]

14.fxe3 Qb6

[Here after 14...Rg8?! 15.Rxf6 Qb6 16.Qc1 Rg6 17.Rf2± Barnsley - Surroca, corr. 2000, Black is simply left with a pawn down.]

[It is hardly advisable for him to try 14...Ng8?! 15.Nd5 h5 16.c3 f5 17.Qb3± Pujols - Elissalt, Cuba 1999.]

15.Qf3 h5! Black wishes to acquire the h6-square for his rook.

[About 15...Rg8 1.27/11 15...h5 0.83 - see 13...Rg8.]

[It is hardly advisable for Black to continue with 15...Qxb2?! 16.Nd5! Bxd5 17.exd5

A) Or 17...e4 1.63/11 17...f5 1.05 18.Bxe4 Qe5 2.23/13 *(18...f5±* 1.42/9 *)* 19.Qxf6± Tseshkovsky;;

B) 17...Qb6 18.Rab1 Qc7 19.Qxf6 Rf8 20.c4 b5 21.cxb5 Nxd5 22.Qf3± Fantin - Terrieux, France 2006.;

C) 17...f5 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.Qxf5± Holmes - Shutler, Swansea 1987 - White is threatening to capture on f7 as well as the double attack - 20 Qf6.]

[If 15...Rc7 1.38/26 15...Rg8 0.72 then 16.Nd1 0.92/9 *(⌓16.Rae1!* 1.38/26 *)* 16...Rg8± 17.Qxf6 Rg6 Mittermeier - Janzen, corr. 2001, 18.Qh4± and White remains with an extra pawn.]

16.Nd5

[Of course not 16.Qxf6 Qxe3+ 17.Kh1 Rg8=]

16...Bxd5 17.exd5 Rh6 18.Rab1 White is better. **18...Qa5**

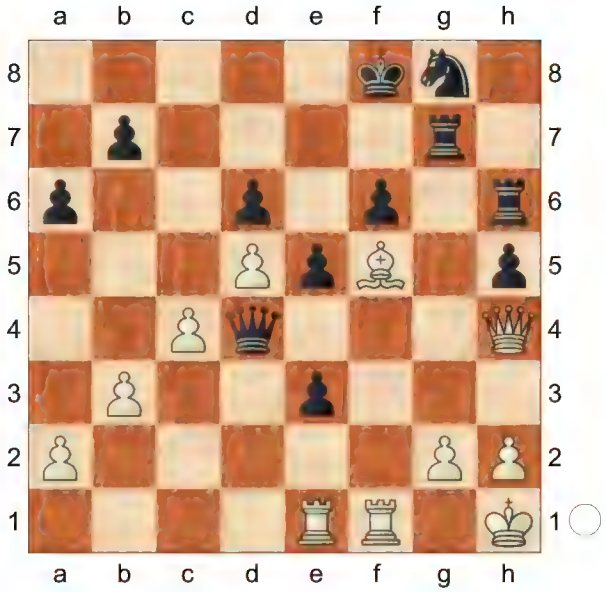
[In the game Tseshkovsky - Chandler, Minskk 1982, there folowed 18...Rc7 1.08/14 18...Qa5 0.46 19.c4 f5 and White countered that with 20.b3 *(*It was also good for him to play *20.Kh1!?* preventing f5-f4. *)*

A) It is even worse for Black to play 20...e4?! 21.Qf4 Rg6 1.65/11 *(21...Rh8±* 0.74/22 *)* 22.Be2±;

B) 20...h4± 0.85/11;

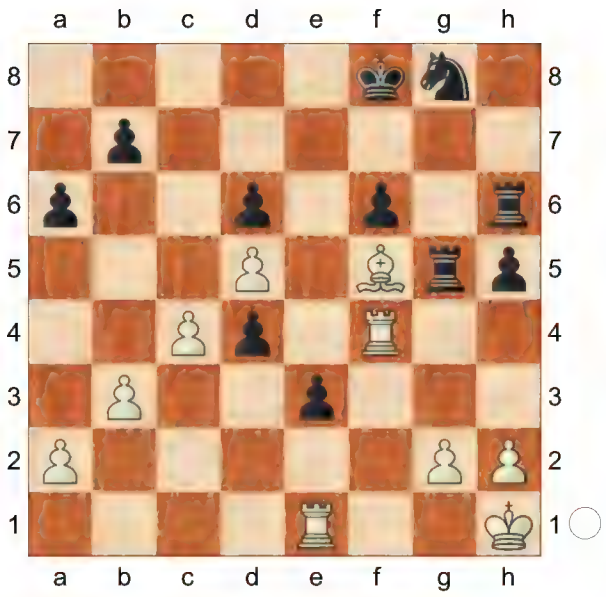
C) 20...f4 2.22/10 21.Rbe1+- Ng8 *(*Or *21...f5 22.Kh1±)* 22.Kh1 fxe3 23.Qg3! White is not in a hurry to capture the e3-awn and he is trying to provoke at first the weakening move f7-f6. Kf8 24.Qg5! f6 25.Qh4 1.34/15 *(25.Qg3+-* 1.74/23 *)* 25...Rg7 1.81/21 *(25...Qd4±* 1.34/15 was necessary. *26.Qxd4 exd4)* 26.Bf5 0.96/24 *(26.Qh3+-* 1.81/21 *)*

C1) The exchange of queens would not change the evaluation of the position 26...Qd4



27.Qxd4! exd4 28.Rf4! Rg5

(Diagram)



29.Bh3 0.40/11 *(29.Be6!±* 0.86/11 *)* 29...d3 1.78/23 *(29...Re5±* 0.40/11 *30.Rxd4 Rh7)* 30.Rd4± 1.21/11 *(30.Rxe3+-* 1.78/23 *d2 31.Rd4)*; **C2)** 26...Rg5± 27.Be6± White obtained a great advantage.]

19.e4 Diagram # Black has too many weaknesses and his pieces lack coordination. White's advantage is indisputable because of that. His best chance is **19...f5!** and after

[It is too dangerous for Black to opt for 19...Qxa2? 1.10/9 19...f5 0.45 20.Qe3 Rh8 2.99/11 *(20...Rg6±* 1.53/10 is a better defense. *21.Qf3 f5)* 21.Qb6! (de Firmian).]

20.a3 f4

[After 20...Kf8 0.70/17 20...f4 0.19 de Firmian - Matulovic, Vrnjacka Banja 1983, White's simplest reaction would be 21.c4± 0.25/7 *(21.exf5±* 0.70/17 *Qc5+ 22.Kh1)*]

21.b4!↑ White has the initiative.

21...Qb6+

[21...Qxa3? 5.58/10 21...Qa4 0.20 22.Bb5+!+-]

22.Kh1! White preserves his edge after

22...Ng6 1.04/19

[while in case of 22...h4 White follows with 23.c4 Qa7 0.93/11 *(23...Kf8±* 0.36/10 *)* 24.Rfc1 0.36/14 *(*Better is *24.a4±* 0.93/11 *)* 24...b6 *(24...h3* 1.44/10 24...Kf8 0.54 *25.g3±)* 25.Rb3± 0.09/13 White prepares gradually the pawn-advance c4-c5 and Black would be forced to defend passively. *(25.Be2±* 0.62/18 *)*]

[22...h4± 0.40/11]

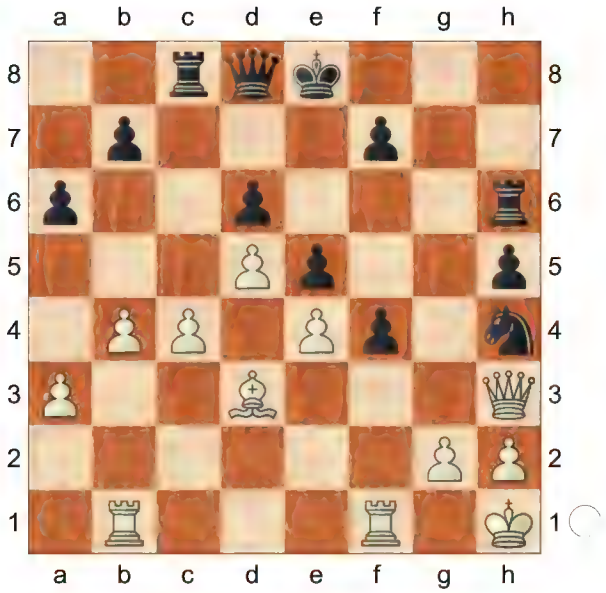
23.c4± Nh4 2.36/9

[23...Qe3 24.Qxe3 0.38/7 *(*White should try *24.Rbc1±* 1.08/15 *)* 24...fxe3± 25.g3!± Prevents Nf4.]

[23...Qe3± 1.22/24 was called for.]

24.Qh3+- White is clearly better.

24...Qd8



25.c5N

[25.Be2 f3 26.Bxf3 Rxc4 27.Rbc1 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 f5 29.exf5 Qg5 30.Rf1 Nxf5 31.Be4 Ne7 32.Qf3 B2 Nh3-Efimenko,Z Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee 1985]

25...dxc5 26.bxc5 1.40/19

[26.Rbc1+- 1.95/15]

26...Rxc5± Hess - Zdziubany, DDR

1987, **27.g3! Ng6**
[But not 27...Rxd5? 4.00/9 27...Ng6 1.60 28.exd5 Qxd5+ 29.Kg1 Qc8+ would now be deadly. Qd4+ 30.Rf2 Qxd3 31.Qc8++-]
28.Rxb7 CONCLUSION ABOUT CHAPTERS 2 AND 3 The lines we analyze in these chapters are characterized by the fact that Black postpones the move b7-b5 and that enables White to improve quickly the placement of his knight on a3. Among the numerous possibilities for Black to avoid entering the main line of the Chelyabinsk variation (8...b5), only the move 8...Be6 can be considered as a serious alternative for him with chances of obtaining counterplay. In case of 9 Nc4! Rc8! 10 Bxf6 Qxf6, there arises a situation in which White has the possibility of deploying his knight on b6 and then of fortifying it there with the pawn-march a2-a4-a5, preserving a considerable space advantage on the queenside. In case Black plays 10...gxf6, White places his knight on e3 and he impedes the pawn advances d6-d5 and f6-f5 for Black. Therefore, his active counterplay is reduced only to Bh6 and Qb6. White maintains superior prospects too, but he must play precisely. It is also important that if Black captures on e3, White recaptures there with his f2-pawn and his pressure along the open f-file becomes rather unpleasant for Black. White's unprotected b2-pawn proves to be poisoned in numerous lines.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise) .
Mistake: White=1
Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=4
Black=7
Best: White=2 ---
Strong: White=1
Black=1

B33

☐ **An Earlier f2-f4**
■ **Looking A Little Deeper**
[John Emms,NH]

White normally plays Nc3 before venturing f2-f4, but I did think it was worth checking out what happens if White tries it a move earlier. It's very rarely played on move four, and it can lead to great complications.
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Gongora Reyes,Maikel: 'Gongora,M: 'Inf 92/(128)" **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4!? Nf6!?** This is the logical way to try and exploit the absence of Nc3. It can lead to very unclear positions in which White must be willing to give up his rook in the h1-corner!
5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5! d6 7.Bg5
[7.Nd5! Nxd5 will transpose to the Giuoco Piano if Black plays 8.exd5 , but Black can also keep his options open with 8...Nb8 after which he may choose to play with ...c6, ...Nbd7 etc. For example, 9.c4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 a6 12.Nc3 Nd7 13.Rb1 f5 14.f3]
7...a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5! It's important to break up White's centre, otherwise he will continue with Nc3, 0-0-0 and Rxh1 and reach an excellent position. Now the game M. Schoeneberg-J.Vatnikov, East Germany 1969, continued **11.Bd3 Be6 12.Qh5 Rg8 13.c3**

[13.g3 Nd4 14.c3 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Bg4 16.Qxh7 Rg7 17.Qh6 Nf3+ 18.Ke2 Ng5+ 19.f3 Nxe4 20.fxg4 Qc8 21.Qe3 Qxg4+ 22.Qf3 Qxf3+ 23.Kxf3 f5 24.Nc2 Kf7 25.Nce3 Nf6 26.Nxf6 Kxf6 27.a4 Rb7 Rotondaro,A (2514)-Tsiganova,M (2615) Amato mem corr 1982 (11) 0-1]

13...Bxd5 0.13/20

[13...Rxg2 14.Qf3 Rg4 15.exf5 Bxd5 16.Qxd5 Ne7 17.Qb7 Qc8 18.Qxc8+ Nxc8 19.Nc2 Nb6 20.Nb4 Rxb4 21.cxb4 d5 22.a3 e4 23.Be2 Bg7 24.Rb1 Rc8 Gongora Reyes,L (2253)-Gongora Reyes,M (2434) 92/(128) Las Tunas 2005]

[Black should try 13...Rxg2∓ -0.40/22 14.Nc2 Rg5 15.Qxh7 Rc8]

14.exd5= Ne7 15.Bxf5N -0.43/21

[15.g3

A) 15...h6 0.44/21 15...e4 0.00 16.Qd1 e4 17.Be2 . Objectively it might not be enough, but White certainly has some over-the-board problems to solve. or 17...Bg7 18.Nc2 -0.12/20 *(18.Qd2!±* 0.36/23 was preferrable. *)* 18...Qb6 0.44/19 *(18...f4!=* -0.12/20 *)* 19.a4! -0.04/21 *(19.Qd2!±* 0.44/19 feels stronger. *)*;

B) 15...e4 16.Be2 Rg6 *(16...h6 17.f4 b4 18.cxb4 Qb6* Gasanov,R-Krasenkow,M USSR 41/(162) 1985 *)* 17.Nc2 Bg7 18.0-0-0 Qb6 19.f3 b4 20.fxe4 b3 21.axb3 Qxb3 22.Rd4 Rb8 23.Rb4 Rxb4 24.Nxb4 a5 25.Nc2 Qa2 26.Bb5+ Kf8 27.Ne1 fxe4 28.Qe2 Nxd5 29.Bc4 Qa1+ 30.Kc2 Nb4+ Marcinkiewicz,A (2405)-Pfretzschner,R (2515) Wch17 sf6 corr ICCF 1988 0-1]

[15.0-0= 0.04/23]

15...Nxf5∓ with an unclear position and roughly equal chances. Black is slightly better. If Black plays **16.Qxf5** White must reply **16...Rxg2** Threatens to win with ...Qh4. **17.Qf3** -0.85/25

[or 17.0-0-0 -0.97/21 17.Ke2 -0.34 Qg5+]

[17.Ke2∓ -0.32/23]

17...Rg6!∓ , reaching the note to Black's 5th move.

[ROLL THE DICE! If Black is looking for another independent move (17...Qg5 -0.44/25 17...Rg6 -0.85 will reach the King's Gambit Declined) then 18.Nc2!? might be worth investigating.

I can't find a single game reaching this position, so this is all just analysis. The idea is to meet Bh6 0.18/22 *(18...Rg4!∓* -0.46/23 *)* with 19.Ne3 , and claim some compensation after]

I can only find three examples of this position in my database, though one of those games does involve two very high-profile players. L.Aronian-V.Anand, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2006, continued

18.Nc2 -1.11/20

[18.0-0-0∓ -0.69/20 is superior.]

18...Bh6 19.Ne3 -1.52/21

[⌓19.h4 -0.95/19]

19...Bxe3! -1.10/22

[⌓19...Rc8 -1.52/21 20.h4 b4 *(20...Bxe3 21.fxe3 b4 22.Rc1∓)* 21.cxb4 Bxe3]

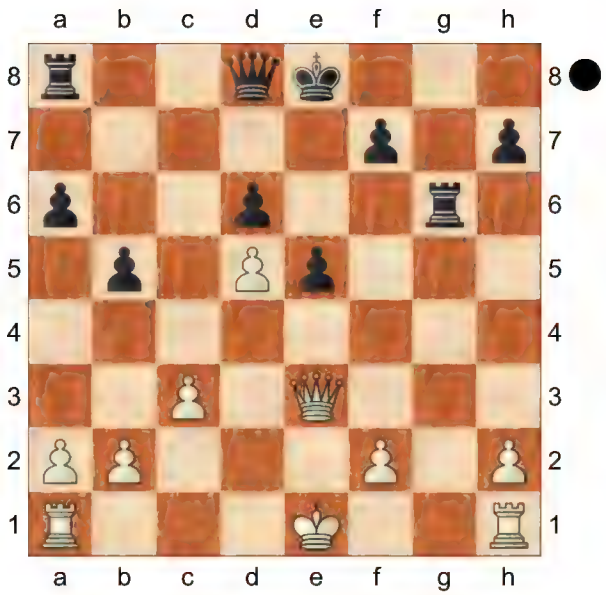
20.Qxe3

(Diagram)

and now, instead of Anand's **20...Rc8** -0.81/22 ,

[⌓20...Qa5! -1.55/23 And now ...Rc8 would win. 21.f4 Kf8]

I suspect that Black is doing pretty well



after the simple **21.0-0-0** , e.g. **21...b4** -0.15/20

[21...Qg5! White is already in serious trouble.]

[21...Rc4∓ -1.04/23 aiming for ...b4. 22.Kb1 Kf8]

22.f4= bxc3 23.fxe5! with the intention of meeting **23...Kf8?** with

[23...cxb2+ keeps more tension. 24.Kb1 Kf8 25.e6 Qc7]

24.bxc3 -0.65/22 when an accident is about to happen on e3.

[24.e6!= -0.09/25]

24...Qa5!?∓ is also playable, as **25.Kb1**

[25.Kb2! -2.25/21 25.Kb1 -0.72 , or 25...Rg2+ 26.Rd2! Qxd5? is a blunder, and after]

25...Rg4 ...Rb8+ is the strong threat.

[25...Rxc3! 26.Qd2! dxe5 if 27.d6]

26.Rd2 The position is equal.

[26.exd6 Rb8+ 27.Kc2 Qxa2+ 28.Kd3 Qxd5+ 29.Kc2 Qg2+ 30.Kd3 Rb2 31.Qe7+ Kg7 32.Qe5+ Kg6 33.Rhe1 Qf3+ *(33...Qxh2? 34.Qxh2 Rxh2 35.d7+-)* 34.Qe3 Qd5+]

26...Rxc3 27.Qh6+ runs into **27...Ke8**

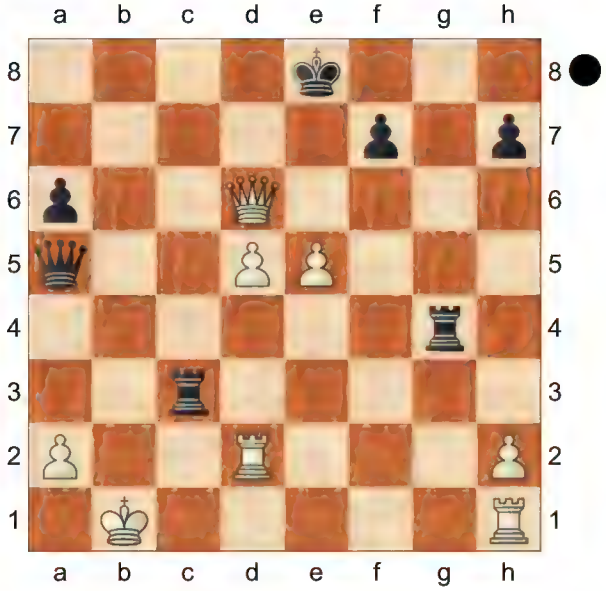
[27...Kg8 28.e6 Qb6+ 29.Ka1 Rg1+ 30.Rd1 Rxh1 31.exf7+ *(31.Rxh1 Qd4=)* 31...Kxf7 32.Qxh7+ *(32.Rxh1 Qd4=)* 32...Ke8 33.Qg8+ *(33.Rxh1 Qd4=)* 33...Kd7 34.Qh7+ Kd8 35.Qg8+ Kc7 36.Qg7+ Kb8 37.Rxh1]

If Black doesn't want to take the rook on h1 then **28.Rb2** makes a lot of sense as an alternative. One game continued. Dodges Qb6. Rb8+ would now be deadly.

[28.Ka1! -3.54/20 28.Rb2 -0.17 Qc5!? is also possible, and after]

[28.Re1 Re4]

[28.Qxd6!



Rb4+! 29.Rb2 *(29.Ka1* we reach a similar line to the main text, although I think a slightly less favourable one for Black. Intending Rg2 and mate. *Qa3?)* 29...Rxb2+ 30.Kxb2! Rc8]

[28.Qxd6? loses. Rb4+ 29.Ka1 Qa3-+]

28...Qxd5 29.Rb8+ Kd7 30.Qxd6+!? (interfering with White's plan of Ng3, which would now be answered by ...h4) **30...Qxd6 31.exd6 Kxd6 32.Rf1 Rh3 33.Rb6+ Kc5** (A.Strikovic-F.Bellia, Vinkovci 1989), and now Black should probably play **34.Rxa6** . instead of the

game's **34...Rxh2** which allowed .
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.23 (precise) .
Mistake: White=5
Black=3
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=5
Black=7
Best: White=6
Black=3
Strong: ---
Black=1

B33

☐ **14 c3: The Main Line**
■ **N,N**
[John Cox,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Bologan,Viktor: 'Bologan,V: 'Inf 81/(126)" Grischuk,Alexander: 'Grischuk,A: 'Inf 86/(139)" **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.c3** The most flexible move; with it White generally declares that he is going to keep the bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal.
14...Bg7
[WARNING: 14...Qc8 (covering f5) 15.c4 is much worse than the same position with the queen on d8, especially since after e4 16.Be2 Bg7 White does not have to stop to defend b2 but can play 17.cxb5 , as Bxb2 18.Nc4 now wins material.]
[However, 14...Qd7 is possible; Black would like to play 15 Qh5 Rg8, but as Rogozenko indicates, White can cross Black's plans with 15.Nc2 Bg7 16.a4 e4 17.Be2 0-0 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd2 . Black can certainly play this but he supposedly remains more flexibly placed to meet this plan of early queenside play if he starts with 14...Bg7 (see the next note).]
15.Qh5
[Not the only plan; White can also go for the queenside with 15.Nc2 0-0 16.a4 *(16.Re1;* and *16.Qh5* transpose to Games 38 and 39 respectively *)* 16...e4 17.Be2 Qb6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd2 . This is the same position as in the last note, except that Black's queen is on b6 rather than d7, which supposedly represents an improvement, although if Black's next move is going to be ... Qb7 then it doesn't make much difference. In this version perhaps Black's next move ought to be 19... Ng6, when the battle is for and against the move ...f4. *(*Alexander Galkin wrote a long article about this line in 'New in Chess Yearbook 80', in which he advocated *19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Qd2* for White, followed up usually by the trip Qg5-f5-d7 to try and tie Black down to the b5-pawn. *)*]
[TIP: According to Galkin Black should not allow the b5-pawn to become a target like this, but rather play 15.Nc2 0-0 16.a4 e4 17.Be2 bxa4 18.Rxa4 Qb6 .
One can see a lot of sense in this – the b-pawn on b5 is an ugly fixed weakness with the knight on c2 covering b4, while on a5 it prevents the knight coming in on c6. Moreover, with the pawn weaknesses on the queenside offset on different files there is always counterplay against

one of White's queenside pawns. Lastly, Black avoids the immediate weakening of his attacking potential by the exchange of a pair of rooks. This position was actually reached in D.Sadvakasov-A.Khalifman, Russian Team Championship 2005, when White wasn't able to show any edge after . One can see a lot of sense in this – the b-pawn on b5 is an ugly fixed weakness with the knight on c2 covering b4, while on a5 it prevents the knight coming in on c6. Moreover, with the pawn weaknesses on the queenside offset on different files there is always counterplay against one of White's queenside pawns. Lastly, Black avoids the immediate weakening of his attacking potential by the exchange of a pair of rooks. This position was actually reached in D.Sadvakasov-A.Khalifman, Russian Team Championship 2005, when White wasn't able to show any edge after 19.Rb4 Qc5 20.Ne3 Rab8 21.Qb3 Rxb4 22.cxb4 , and Galkin concedes that he hasn't been able to find any in his analysis either, so for the moment we can conclude that this is the most accurate defence for Black.]

15...e4 16.Bc2 0-0

[This has been an extremely popular tabiya and Rogozenko devotes thirty closely packed pages to the variations arising over the next few moves. It seems that the lines have been mined out, although you never know, and Black certainly has to know what he's doing if he doesn't want to get mated horribly. I've confined myself to repertoire coverage for Black and providing explanation which I hope will help remember the recommended path, rather than discussing possible alternatives. At this point some people – Yakovich for example – think that 16...Qc8 is more accurate so that 17.Rad1 can be met with Qc5 at once, but it's certainly simpler to play the same way against both 17 Rad1 and 17 Rae1 and I've chosen to assume Black's going to do so.]

17.Rae1

[17.Rad1 is less pressing since this rook isn't going to help mate Black. After Qc8 (the next note explains why the queen is well placed here), White needs to bring his knight into the game, so his candidate moves are either 18 Bb3 or 18 Bb1:

A) 18.Bb3 (it looks daft to protect the d-pawn twice, but actually the recipe which is effective after 17 Rae1 Qc8 18 Bb3 – i.e. 18...a5 – doesn't work here precisely because the d-pawn is doubly protected) Re8 *(18...a5? 19.Nxb5 a4 20.Bc2 Qc5* is a blow in the air here; the text prepares ...Ng6 and ... f4 *)* 19.Nc2 a5 20.a3 Ng6 21.f4 (White needs to restrain ...f4) exf3 22.Qxf3 f4 was equal in Z.Varga-Wang Yue, Calvia Olympiad 2004. NOTE: Machines always hate it but ...exf3 is usually the right way to meet f4 in this structure. After the alternative of leaving the pawn on f4 the knight on g6 is temporarily stymied, and Black has no counterplay, while White can regroup gradually and aim either for g4 or for play on the queenside. was equal in Z.Varga-Wang Yue, Calvia Olympiad 2004. NOTE:

Machines always hate it but ...exf3 is usually the right way to meet f4 in this structure. After the alternative of leaving the pawn on f4 the knight on g6 is temporarily stymied, and Black has no counterplay, while White can regroup gradually and aim either for g4 or for play on the queenside.;

B) 18.Bb1 Qc5 is best, hitting d5 now that the bishop has gone away, and preventing 19.Nc2 *(*thus White plays *19.Kh1* , and now Black has a choice between 19...b4 or *Rae8* preparing ...Nxd5, either of which should secure equal chances *)* for the time being in view of 19...Nxd5 20.Qxf5 Nxc3 21.Qxc5 Ne2+ winning a pawn.;

C) 18.--]

17...Qc8 Experience has shown that this is the right way for Black to play. White is gearing up for a swift assault with the likes of f3 or g4, and Black needs counterplay quickly. His fundamental way of meeting this sort of thing in the Sveshnikov is usually ...b4, and so it is here.

TIP: From c8 the queen serves the useful function of lending force to the ... b4-break by its x-ray on the c2-bishop, it may be able to check strongly from c5, and it defends the f5-pawn to allow ... Ng6.

After 17...Qc8, White has several candidate moves: Experience has shown that this is the right way for Black to play. White is gearing up for a swift assault with the likes of f3 or g4, and Black needs counterplay quickly. His fundamental way of meeting this sort of thing in the Sveshnikov is usually ...b4, and so it is here. TIP: From c8 the queen serves the useful function of lending force to the ...b4-break by its x-ray on the c2-bishop, it may be able to check strongly from c5, and it defends the f5-pawn to allow ...Ng6. After 17... Qc8, White has several candidate moves:

[17...Nxd5? perishes. 18.Qxf5 Nf6 19.Rxe4+- *(19.Bxe4 d5+-)*]

18.--N -0.69/16

[a) 18.g4 doesn't work, although it has to be met with the typical counterstrike

A) 18...Nxd5 19.Qxf5 Qxf5 20.gxf5 Nf6 0.78/20 *(20...b4=* 0.13/20 *21.Nc4 Rad8)* 21.Bxe4 is much less effective;

B) 18...b4 19.cxb4 Threatens to win with gxf5. Nxd5 20.Qxf5 *(20.gxf5 Nf6* followed by ...d5 is downright dangerous for White *)* 20...Qxf5 21.gxf5 Nxb4 Strongly threatening ...d5. 22.Rxe4 Rab8 which is at least equal for Black.]

[b) 18.f3 is a fundamental and dangerous move which Black needs to know exactly how to defend against – see Game 41. b4 19.Nb1 bxc3 20.Nxc3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qxc3 22.Bb1 Ng6 23.Qxf5 exf3 24.Qxf3 Qxf3 25.Rxf3 Rae8 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Kf2 Rb8 28.Rb3 Rxb3 29.axb3 Ne7 30.Be4 a5 31.Ke3 Nc8 32.g4 h6 33.Kf4 17.h5?! (2645)-Skorpik,M (2585) 002 Linz 2014 (1.1) ½-½]

[c) 18.Bb1 weakens d5 and ought logically to be met either by Re8 , preparing ...Nxd5 (18...Nxd5 at once is met by 19 Bxe4), *(*or *18...Qc5* . Both have proved effective; for example, after the latter, *19.Kh1*

Qxd5 20.f3 Qe5 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Qxe5 dxe5 23.Bxe4 Rad8 was equal in Z.Almasi-P.Leko, Monte Carlo (rapid) 2002. *)*]

[d) 18.Bb3 is best met by Luke McShane's surprising a5 , preventing 19 Nc2 by the threat to trap the bishop:

A) 19.Nxb5 a4! 20.Bd1 Qc5 is Black's other point, winning back the pawn and giving him adequate play; for example,

A1) 21.c4 -1.27/18 21.Be2 -0.06 Qxc4 22.Nxd6 -1.83/22 *(22.Be2∓* -1.37/20 *Qxa2 23.Nxd6 Qxb2 24.Nxf5 Nxf5 25.Qxf5)* 22...Qxd5 wins the knight; the idea of 19 Qg5 below is precisely to ensure that White's knight has f5 in this sequence;

A2) 21.Be2 Nxd5 22.Qg5 Repels Nf4 *(22.Qxf5* runs into the *Nxc3* trick again *)* 22...Rab8 23.c4 Nc7 24.Nxc7 Qxc7 25.Qxf5 Rfe8 saw Luke upholding his own idea in Y. Pelletier-L.McShane, Biel 2004.;

B) 19.Qg5 is regarded as the best reply: Qb7 *(*defending the knight and guarding b5, and thus forcing White back to the basic plan; White's cunning move tries to drive the knight away from e7 before taking on d5; for example, *19...Ng6 20.Nxb5 a4 21.Bd1 Qc5 22.c4 Qxc4 23.Nxd6 Qxa2 24.Re2 Qxd5* and now *25.Nxf5* with advantage to White *)* 20.f3 *(20.Nxb5 Qxb5 21.Qxe7 a4* is useless *)* 20...h6

B1) 21.Qf4 is less good: a4 22.Bc2 b4 23.cxb4 Qxb4 24.fxe4 Ng6 , as in A.Shirov-A. Grischuk, Wijk aan Zee 2003, is fine for Black after 25.Qf3 *(*or *25.Qxf5 Bxb2 26.e5 Bxe5 27.Nb1 Rae8 28.Be4 Bf4 29.g3 Re5 30.Qg4 Rxe4 31.Rxe4 Qxe4 32.gxf4 Rb8* Shirov,A (2723)-Grischuk,A (2712) 86/ (139) Wijk aan Zee 2003 *)* 25...f4;

B2) 21.Qg3 a4 22.Bc2 b4 23.Nc4 *(23.cxb4* looks better but *Qxb4 24.fxe4 f4 25.Rxf4 Ng6 26.Rff1 Bxb2 27.Nb1 Be5* – Rogozenko – is similar to Shirov-Grischuk *)* 23...Qxd5 24.fxe4 Qxc4 25.exf5 and now Black can equalize with either

B2a) 25...Nd5!? 26.f6 Nxf6 27.Rxf6 bxc3 *(27...Qxa2?* too greedy. *28.Rxh6 f5 29.Qg6+-)* 28.bxc3 Qxa2±;

B2b) 25...Nd5 (A.Shirov-V. Kramnik, Linares 2003);

C) 19.--]

[e) The subtle 18.Kh1 is the main try, which at one time looked to be putting the entire Sveshnikov under pressure, as we will see in Game 42. Ng6 19.Bb1 Re8 20.f3 b4 21.cxb4 Bxb2 22.fxe4 Bxa3 23.exf5 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Qc3 25.Rf1 Qc4 26.Rd1 Rf8 27.Qf3 Bxb4 28.fxg6 fxg6 29.Qd3 Van der Weide,K (2467)-Nunn,J (2578) Paington 81/(126) 2000]

[18.Bb3= 0.00/22 keeps the balance.]

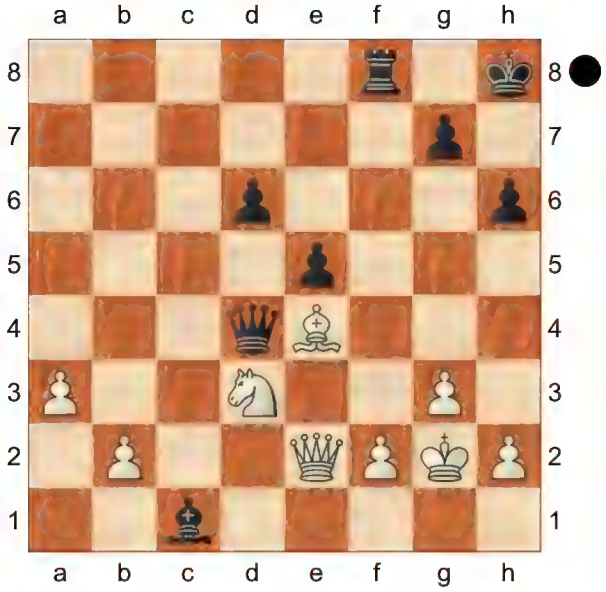
[White should try 18.Kh1= 0.04/24]

B33

□ **Almasi,Zoltan**
■ **Shirov,Alexei**
French League 2005
[Adam Hunt,MH]

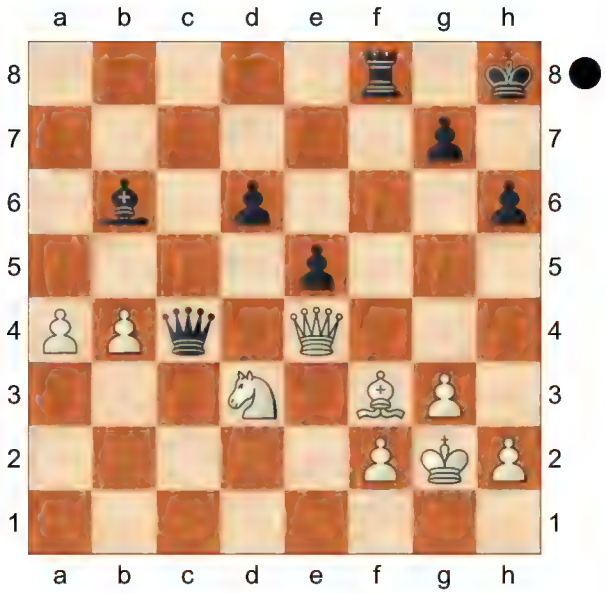
Witness the following fascinating game, full of imbalances aplenty
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Be2
EXERCISE: By evaluating the relative merits of the minor pieces here try to come up with a good strategy for Black. --- ANSWER: EXERCISE: By evaluating the relative merits of the minor pieces here try to come up with a good strategy for Black. ANSWER: **13...Ne7!**
Very sensibly Black seeks to try and undermine the superior white knight on d5. One of Black's main advantages in this position is the bishop-pair, so he tries to maintain that advantage by using his knight for the exchange.
14.Ncb4 White of course is in no mood to 'repair' the hole on d5 by capturing back with his pawn or queen. **14...a5 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.Nd5 Qb7**
The position is equal. **17.Qd3**
The white queen eyes up the b5-pawn.
17...b4 0.19/22
[⌓17...Be6 -0.17/18]
[17...Rb8 18.0-0 Be6 19.Rfd1 Rfc8 20.a3 h6 21.g3 Bd8 22.h4 Rc5 23.b4 Rc6 24.Rac1 Kh8 25.Kg2 Kg8 26.Bf3 Qc8 27.bxa5 Bxd5 28.Qxd5 Bxa5 29.Bh5 Rb7 30.c4 Rbc7 31.Qxb5 Bb6 32.Qd5 Almasi,Z (2631)-Nielsen,P (2626) Bundesliga 0304 2003 (10.1) 0-1]
18.cxb4N
[18.c4 -0.34/25 18.cxb4 0.12 would appear to make sense, keeping an iron grip on the d5-square, but there are no real targets in the black position: Be6 19.Rd1 a4 20.0-0 Ra5! is a typical Sicilian motif and would be a creative way of trying to fix a pawn at d5. Black is better here as his bishop exerts more influence over the game than its counterpart by controlling the c1-square. With all the heavy pieces on the board Black has every chance of converting his advantage.]
[18.h4 Bd8 19.g3 Be6 20.Rd1 bxc3 21.bxc3 Bb6 22.Nxb6 Qxb6 23.Qxd6 Qxd6 24.Rxd6 Bxa2 25.Kd2 Rfb8 26.Ra1 Rb2+ 27.Ke3 Rc8 28.c4 Kf8 29.Rd2 Rxd2 30.Kxd2 Bxc4 31.Rxa5 Bxe2 32.Kxe2 Rc2+ M.Sanjuan Garcia (2609)-7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8.♗g5 Qa5 (2500) 70th ch-ITA S/F 2010 ½-½]
18...axb4 19.Qg3 h6 20.0-0
QUESTION: What should Black's strategy be here? --- ANSWER: QUESTION: What should Black's strategy be here? ANSWER: **20...Kh8**
To undermine the d5-knight. In order to do that Black must play for ...f7-f5, so he sensibly moves his king off the weak a2-g8 diagonal.
[The premature 20...f5 allows White into the black camp after 21.h4! Bd8 22.Qg6 with unpleasant pressure.]
21.Qb3 Hitting the weak pawn on b4.
21...Rb8
[The immediate 21...f5 is also quite possible: 22.exf5 Bxf5 23.Nxb4 Be4 24.f3 Bh7 gives Black good compensation for the sacrificed pawn due to his central pawn mass and White's weak dark squares.]

22.Rad1 f5 The pawn break finally arrives. **23.Bf3 Qa7** Removing the queen from the long diagonal.
24.Nxb4?!
[24.exf5 Bxf5 25.Nxb4 was safer, but the dynamism of the black position would still be evident after e4 26.Be2 e3! Threatens to win with ...exf2+. 27.f3 Qb6 , with a real thorn in the side on e3.]
24...fxe4 25.Bxe4 -0.76/20
[25.Nc6!= -0.22/15 remains equal. Rxb3 26.Nxa7 Rxb2 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 *(27...exf3 28.Nxd6 fxg2 29.Kxg2∓)* 28.Bxe4]
25...Bg4!∓ The bishops' collective power is evident. **26.a3** White is forced to sacrifice the exchange, **26...Bxd1** **27.Qxd1** QUESTION: How should Black defend the d6-pawn? --- ANSWER: QUESTION: How should Black defend the d6-pawn? ANSWER:. White is weak on the dark squares **27...Rbc8** He shouldn't! Hopefully by now we are thinking first and foremost about active, aggressive moves. Tying down a piece to defence of the backward pawn makes little sense. Inhibits Nc6. Black is more active. **28.g3** -1.36/24 Dodges Rf4
[28.Qxd6? -#4/16 28.Nc6 -1.13 Qxf2+ 29.Rxf2 Rc1+ 30.Rf1 Rcxf1# is the tactical justification.]
[28.Qxd6 gets mated. Qxf2+!! 29.Rxf2 Rc1+]
[⌓28.Nc6 -0.93/23 Qb7 29.Qc2]
28...Rc1 29.Qe2 Rxf1+ -0.25/19 there was a tactical shot here that black must have rejected. What was it?
[29...Rxf2! 30.Qxf2 Be3 looks very tempting, but after 31.Kg2 Bxf2 32.Rxc1 White has very good control of the light squares and it is the black king that must be a little careful.]
[29...Rxf2!∓ -1.26/23 30.Qxf2 Be3 Pin]
30.Kxf1= Qd4 And now ...Be3 would win.
[30...Be3 again looks good and to be honest I'm not so sure why Shirov didn't go for this - it seems to force a weakening of the dark squares, such as after again looks good and to be honest I'm not so sure why Shirov didn't go for this – it seems to force a weakening of the dark squares, such as after 31.f3! Qd4 .]
31.Kg2 -0.40/22
[31.Nd5= 0.00/24]
31...Bc1 32.Nd3



EXERCISE: Try to put yourself in the black bishop's shoes. Which diagonal would you ideally like to be on and how do you get there? --- ANSWER: EXERCISE: Try to put yourself in the black bishop's shoes. Which diagonal would you ideally like to be on and how do you get there? ANSWER: **32...Bd2** Heading for the b6-f2 diagonal! Deflection **33.Bf3**
[33.Bb7 Rb8]

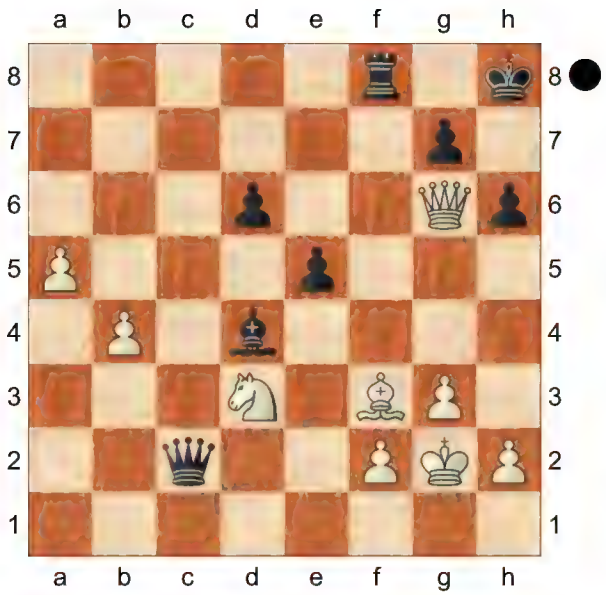
33...Ba5
[33...g5!?]
34.b4 Bb6 With the idea ...Qc4.
[34...Bc7 simplifies 35.Qe4 Qxe4 36.Bxe4 Bb6]
35.a4! Qc4↑ next ...d5 is good for Black. Black is pushing. **36.Qe4** -1.89/23
[36.a5= -0.08/22 and White has nothing to worry. Bd4 37.Nf4 Qxe2 38.Nxe2]



36...Qc2? 0.04/29
[Better is 36...Bd4!-+ -1.89/23 ...d5! is the strong threat. 37.Qe2 d5]
37.a5 Bd4 Strongly threatening ...d5! Chess con chili. **38.Qg6?** -4.01/27
[I don't see anything wrong with 38.a6! Qa2 39.b5 as White can elegantly give up a piece: Qb1 40.Qd5! Qxd3 41.a7! Qa3! 42.a8Q Rxa8 43.Qxa8+ Qxa8 44.Bxa8 with a likely draw.]
[38.a6!= 0.04/23 and White stays safe.]

(Diagram)

White fatally allows the central pawns to



advance, possibly as a result of time pressure. **38...d5!-+ 39.Bxd5** Be4 would now be deadly. Black is clearly winning.
[39.Bh5 e4]
39...Rxf2+ Pin
[39...Bxf2? is the wrong capture. 40.Nxe5 Qd2 41.Nf7+ Kg8 42.Nxh6+ Discovered Attack (Double Check) Kh8 43.Nf7+ Kg8 44.Qf5 Be3+ 45.Kh3+-]
40.Kh3 Rxh2+ 41.Kg4 Threatening mate with Qe8+. **41...h5+** . Summary: It was interesting to note the way that Shirov played around the strong knight on d5, undermining it in order to preserve his bishop-pair. Try to force yourself to constantly reassess the situation on the board and ask yourself questions about the activity of your pieces. Make them happier and your games will improve!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.17 (very precise) .
Loses game: White=2 ---
Missed win: ---
Black=1
Mistake: White=3

Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=11
Black=12
Best: ---
Black=2
Strong: White=1
Black=1
Brilliant: ---
Black=1
0-1

B33

□ **Morgado,Juan Sebastian**
■ **Golod,Vitali**
AM-2003-0-00005 2005
[MH]

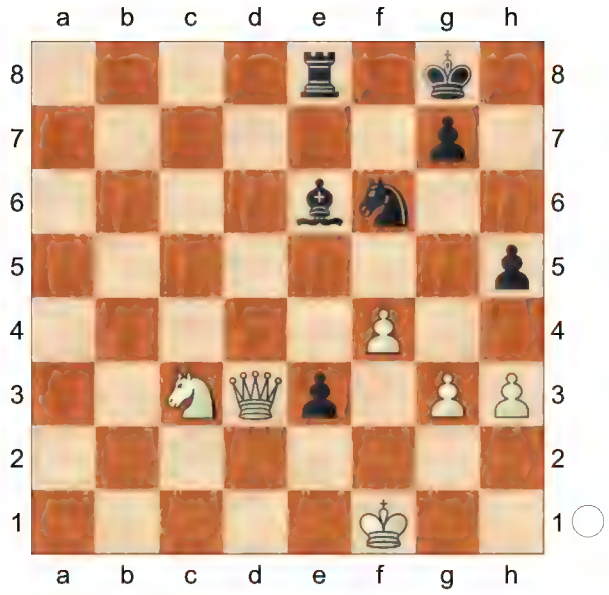
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Morgado,Juan Sebastian_17373: 'Morgado,J.S: 'Inf 95/(91)" RR: 'Inf 87/(123)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.c4 Be7 10.Bd3 a6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.0-0 f5 13.f3 Nd7 14.Kh1 Bg5 15.b4 a5 16.a3** White is slightly better. **16...axb4 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Qxa1 Qe3 20.Bc2**
[20.Be2 b5 21.Qc1 Qxc1 22.Rxc1 bxc4 23.Nb5 Bb7 24.Nxd6 Bxd5 25.Bxc4 Bxc4 26.Rxc4 e4 27.fxe4 fxe4 28.Kg1 e3 29.Re4 Nf6 30.Rxe3 Rd8 31.Re6 Rb8 32.Re7 Rxb4 Leko,P (2736)-Kramnik,V (2809) (blindfold) Monaco 2003]
[20.Qb1 e4 21.Bxe4 Qxc3 22.Bxf5 Nf6 23.Bd3 Re8 24.Rc1 Qe5 25.c5 dxc5 26.bxc5 Nxd5 27.Bxh7+ Kh8 28.Qe4 Nf6 29.Qxe5 Rxe5 30.f4 Rd5 31.Bg6 Kg8 32.h3 Bd7 33.Rc2 Bc6 34.Kh2 Nd7 Karacsonyi,K (2142)-Shivika,R (1940) Budapest Vezerkepzo Pentecost IM2 2023 (5) 0-1]
20...Qf4N 0.39/12
[20...Nb6= -0.09/12 was preferrable. 21.Bb3 Bd7 22.Qc1 Qd4 Buse,D-Southwell,H corr 95/(91) 2003]
21.Bb3± Rf6 0.95/10
[Black should play 21...Nf6± 0.40/12]
22.Qc1 Qh4 23.Qe1 Qf4 24.Qc1 aiming for Qxf4. **24...Qh4 25.Qe3** 0.55/9
[25.Qe1± 1.02/13 Qf4 26.Nb5]
25...Rh6 26.h3 Active counter play!
26...Nf6 27.Ra1 -0.27/9
[White should try 27.f4!± 0.74/22]
27...Bd7!= 28.c5 Strongly threatening c6. **28...Qxb4 29.c6! Qxb3 30.Rb1↑** White fights for an advantage.
30...Qxb1+ 31.Nxb1 bxc6 32.dxc6 Bxc6 33.Qb6 Be8 34.Qxd6 e4 35.f4 Bf7 Inhibits Qe6. **36.Qe5 Ne8 37.Qxf5 e3** Hoping for ...e2. **38.Nc3 Re6 39.Qd3 Nf6 40.Kg1 h5 41.g3** 0.56/26
[41.Kf1!± 1.03/13]
41...Re8± 42.Kf1 Be6 1.44/21
[⌓42...Kh8 0.72/11]

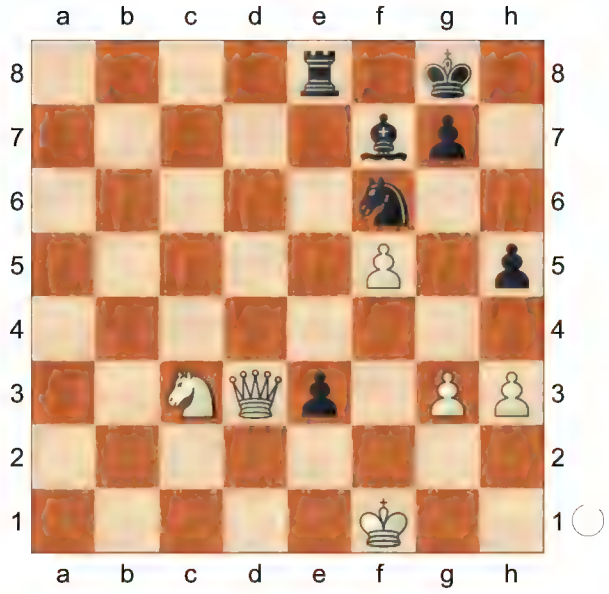
(Diagram)

43.f5!±
[43.Qxe3? too greedy. Bxh3+ 44.Ke2 Bg4+ *(44...Rxe3+? 45.Kxe3 Kf7 46.Kf2-+)* 45.Kf2 Rxe3-+]
43...Bf7

(Diagram)

44.Qd4! Wards off Re5 **44...Kh7?** 4.75/21 This move loses the game for Black.





[44...Rc8± 1.57/18 is tougher. 45.Qxe3 Rc4]

45.g4+- g5 would now be deadly. **45...hxg4 46.hxg4 Kh6** White is clearly winning. **47.Ke1 Bg8 48.Qf4+ g5 49.Qc7 Ra8 50.Qb6 Ra1+ 51.Ke2 Bc4+** 6.58/19

[⌓51...Kg7 4.57/10 52.Qxe3 *(52.Qd4 Rc1+-)* 52...Bc4+ 53.Kd2 Kf7 54.Qxg5 Ra7 55.Qg6+ Ke7]

52.Kxe3 Kg7 53.Qd4 Dodges Rd1 **53...Bg8 54.Ke2** Against Rf1 **54...Ra8 55.Ne4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.37.
Loses game: ---
Black=1
Mistake: White=3
Black=3
Inaccurate: White=2
Black=2
OK: White=13
Black=16
Best: White=5
Black=3
Strong: White=2
Black=1
1-0

B33

□ **Drzymala,G**
■ **Caba,T**
Polish Junior Championship 2004
[Andrew Greet,MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
INF 34/(214): '36/(214) RR: 'Inf 36/(214)"
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 Be6N

[7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 *(9.Nab1 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.a4 b4 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Bc4 Bg5 14.0-0 Kh8 15.c3 Be6 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.Nbc3 a5 18.b3 Rc8 19.Qe2 Rc5 20.Nxb4 axb4 21.Nb5 Be7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rad1 Qb6* Nasuta,G (2561)-Ris,R (2457) Erkenschwick 2019 ½-½*; 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Rb8 12.Nc2 Bg5 13.g3 0-0 14.h4 Bh6 15.g4 Bf4 16.Qf3 h5 17.Bh3 b4 18.c4 b3 19.axb3 hxg4 20.Bxg4 Bxg4 21.Qxg4 Rxb3 22.Rg1 Bh6 23.Nde3 Ne7* Mierins,E (2147)-Ingebretsen,J (2340) Kragero op 2023

(9) 0-1) 9...gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bxb5 (11.c3 Bg7 12.Bd3 Be6 13.Qh5 0-0 14.exf5 Bxd5 15.f6 e4 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Qxd5 exd3+ 18.Kf1 Ne5 19.h4 Qb6 20.Rh3 Ng4 21.Qf3 Re2 22.Kg1 Qxf2+ 23.Qxf2 Nxf2 24.Rf3 Ng4 25.Rxd3 Rae8 Nisipeanu,L (1200)-Turner,H corr CP-2016-S-00003 2019 0-1) 11...axb5 12.Nxb5 Ra4 13.Nbc7+ Kd7 14.0-0 Rxe4 15.Qh5 Qh4 16.Qxf7+ Be7 17.g3 Rg4 18.Nb5 f4 19.Rad1 fxg3 20.fxg3 Rxg3+ 21.hxg3 Qxg3+ Coco,C-Pantaleoni corr 127824 1983]

8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nd5 A dynamic duo of knights. **9...Rc8** Against Nbc7+ **10.c3! Rg8 11.Qa4** 0.00/24

[White should play 11.Na3± 0.78/20]

11...f5!= 12.g3 -1.32/21

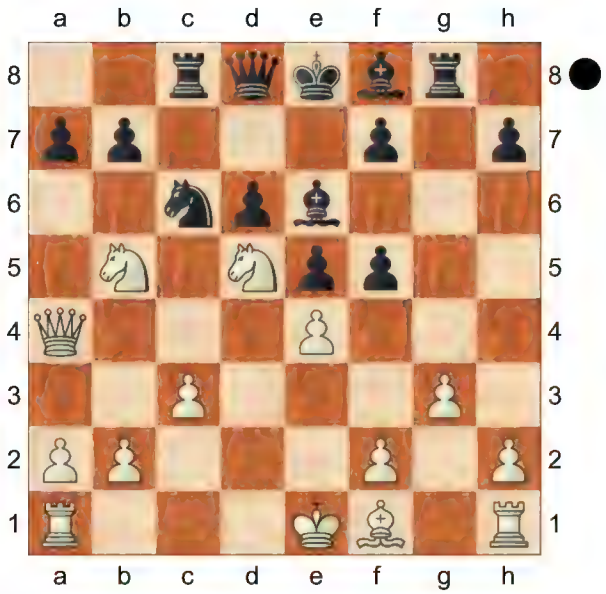
[12.0-0-0!? This should have been a reasonable drawing attempt. And now f4 would win. fxe4!

A) 13.Nxa7? -1.97/21 13.Kb1 -0.08 Ra8 14.Nxc6? -5.49/21 draws easily. (14.Bb5 -2.00/18 is a better chance. Bxd5 15.Rxd5) Black could have won easily with 14...Qg5+-+ 15.f4 exf3+;

B) 13.Kb1!= 0.00/20;

C) 13.Qxe4?? -0.61/19 A feeble end to a mostly enjoyable game. 13...Qg5+ 0.53/20 (13...a6∓ -0.61/19 14.Na3 Qg5+ 15.f4 exf4) 14.Rd2 -0.27/20 (14.Ne3 -0.60/21 14.f4 0.53 would force the bishop back to g3, as d5; Better is 14.f4± 0.53/20 exf4 15.Nxf4) 14...Bxd5 1.07/19 (14...a6= -0.27/20 15.Nbc7+ Kd8 16.Nxe6+ fxe6) 15.Qxd5± a6 16.Nxd6+ 0.54/21 (16.Na3± 1.12/22) 16...Bxd6± 17.Qxd6?? -4.40/19 (17.h4!± 0.44/22 stays ahead. Qg7 18.Qxd6) 17...Rd8-+ 18.h4 Qf4 . It was a pity that the final part was marred by numerous blunders (the players were rated 1931 and 2121 respectively) , but the middlegame and early endgame demonstrated a variety of important themes for the ...g6-g5 variation. The text leads to an immediate defeat, whereas 19.g3 would have kept some hopes alive. Qf3! looks best, as the knight cannot escape.]

[12.0-0-0= 0.00/24]



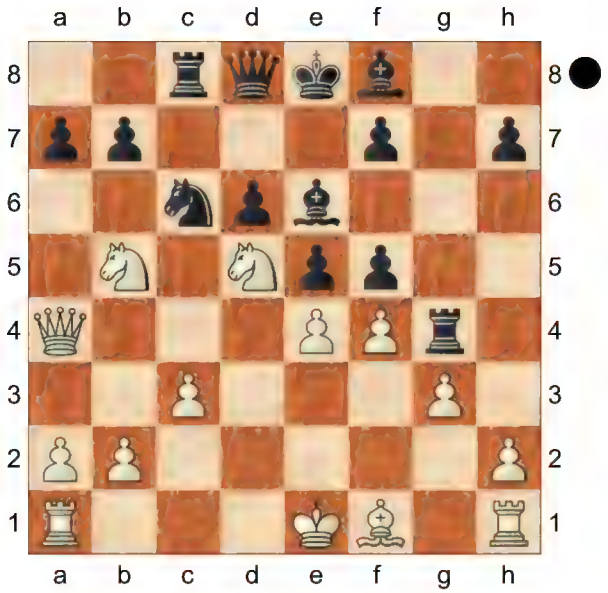
12...Rg4!∓ 13.f4

[13.f3?! Bxd5! 14.0-0-0 -2.32/26 (14.fxg4? -3.56/21 14.Bg2 -1.34 Bxe4; 14.Bg2∓ -1.18/22 was necessary. a6 15.Na3) 14...Rxe4 15.fxe4? Bxe4]

[13.Nxa7? is the wrong capture. Rxe4+-+]

(Diagram)

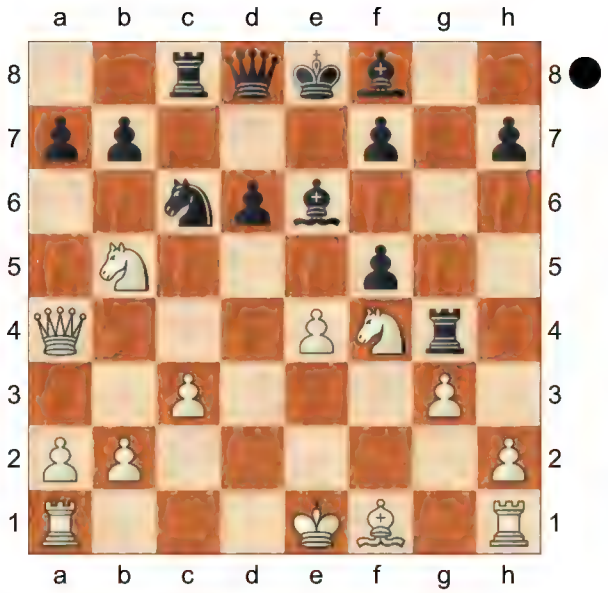
13...exf4! Overworked Piece **14.Nxf4**



-3.63/20
[14.gxf4? -3.89/22 14.h3 -1.84 Qh4+ 15.Kd1? Both sides have played the endgame quite consistently up to now, but the text is a definite mistake. *(15.Kd2 Rxf4 16.Nxf4 Qxf4+ 17.Kc2 Qf2+; 15.Ke2?* -5.28/22 15.Kd1 -3.26 *Rxf4* White should now be able to hold by using his king and knight to blockade the light squares. Black is not helped by the fact that he has the wrong rook's pawn for his bishop. *16.Nxf4 Qxf4)* 15...Rxf4 16.Nxf4?? White was clearly worse, but this is just disastrous. Qxf4 17.Be2 Bh6?? 18.Qc2 Prevents Qd2+. a6]
[⌓14.h3 -1.84/23 Rxg3 15.0-0-0]

(Diagram)

White intends to regroup with Bf1 and Rd2, activating his rook along the d-file while avoiding a queen exchange. This plan was first introduced by Nigel Short as an improvement over his Brussels encounter with Larsen. --- NOTE: White can also opt for this plan using the 11



Bd3 move order. **14...Rxf4!-+ 15.gxf4** 0-0-0 is the strong threat. **15...Qh4+ 16.Ke2**
[16.Kd1 Qxf4
A) 17.Be2 a6 18.Na3? -4.97/19 White hurries to exchange the soon to be liberated bishop. *(18.Rf1* -3.10/19 *Qxe4 19.Qxe4 fxe4 20.Na3)* 18...Bh6-+ 19.Qc2 Inhibits Qd2+. *(19.Ke1 Ke7)* 19...Nb4 20.Qc1 -11.28/20 *(⌓20.Rf1* -4.99/18 *Nxc2 21.Rxf4 Ne3+ 22.Ke1 Bxf4 23.exf5 Nxf5 24.Kf2)* 20...Qxe4-+ 21.Qxh6 Qxh1+ 22.Kd2 Qxa1;
B) 17.Kc2 Qf2+ 18.Kb1 Qe1+! Fixing White's weak h-pawn while securing an outpost on g3. White enjoys the potentially decisive advantage of an extra passed pawn, but in the mean time he has to worry about his fragile kingside. --- NOTE: This is a good example of a middlegame initiative persisting deep into the endgame, without being dampened by a queen exchange. 19.Kc2 Qxa1!? Blacks light-squared bishop was not

doing much on c6, so Caba takes steps to erode the restrictive white pawn wedge.]

16...Qxf4 Threatens to win with ...Bh6.

17.Bg2

[17.Bh3 -6.29/18 17.Ke1 -4.46 fxe4 -2.65/18 *(⌓17...Bh6* -6.29/18 (-> ...Qd2+) *18.Rhg1 Qe3+ 19.Kf1 Qxh3+ 20.Rg2 Ke7)* 18.Bxe6? -5.69/21 *(18.Raf1* -2.65/18 *Bg4+ 19.Bxg4 Qxg4+ 20.Ke1)*

18...Qf3+?!-+ This allows Black to ferry his heavy artillery over to the kingside if needs be, but it seems a little on the slow side. Instead, I think that Black's number one priority must be to execute the attacking thrust ...g5-g4 to generate some kingside play. As we will soon see, this can be very risky if White can respond with f3-f4.

19.Kd2! Qd3+? This is the move Black wants to play, but it contains a massive flaw. 20.Ke1? Returning the favour. fxe6 21.Rd1? -6.24/20 *(21.Nd4* -3.82/20 *Be7 22.h4 Bxh4+* Decoy *23.Rxh4 Qg3+ 24.Kd1 Qxh4 25.Nxc6 bxc6 26.Rc1)* 21...Qe3+-+ 22.Kf1 Qf3+ 23.Kg1 Bh6 -5.37/16 *(⌓23...Be7* -12.43/19 *24.Nd4 Qg4+ 25.Kf1 Qh3+ 26.Kg1 Kd7 27.Rd2 Rg8+ 28.Kf2 Qg2+ 29.Ke1 Qxh1+ 30.Ke2 Qg1 31.Qxc6+ bxc6 32.h3 Rg2#)*]

17...Bh6 18.Rad1 Inhibits Qd2+.

18...Ke7 One of the most appealing aspects of the ...g6-g5 plan is that it leads to positions quite unlike anything else you might encounter in the Accelerated Dragon, or any other opening for that matter. Black has been shuffling his heavy pieces around the back rank, but is about to succeed in provoking a weakening of White's castled position. **19.b3 Rg8** Black mates. **20.Rhg1!?** White hurries to open a queenside file. **20...Qe3+ 21.Kf1 Rg4** White got outplayed after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=1.03/ Black=0.00 (flawless) .

Mistake:	White=3	---
Inaccurate:	White=1	---
OK:	White=1	
Black=5		
Best:	---	
Black=1		
Strong:	---	
Black=3		
Brilliant:	---	
Black=1		

0-1

B33

□ **Shirov,Alexei**
■ **Kasparov,Garry**
Spain (14) 2002
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bxb5 axb5 12.Nxb5 Ra4

[12...fxe4? 13.Nbc7++-]

[12...Qa5+?! 13.c3±]

13.b4 -0.74/16

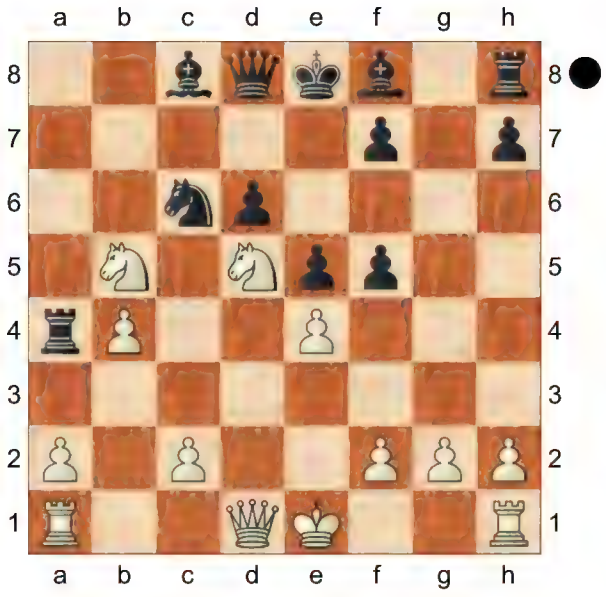
(Diagram)

Qh4 0.00/13

[13...Rxb4!∓ -0.74/16 14.Nbc7+ Kd7

A) 15.exf5? Qg5∓;

B) 15.0-0 Qxc7 *(15...Rb7 16.Qh5 Ne7 17.Qxf7 Kc6 18.Rab1 fxe4*



19.Rxb7 Kxb7 20.Rb1+ Kc6 21.Rb6+ Kc5 22.Rb3 Kc6 23.Rc3+ Kb7 24.Nxe7 Bxe7 25.Qd5+ Ka7 26.Qa8+ Shirov,A (2751)-Lautier,J (2632) Amber-blind 9th 2000 (1) 1-0 *)* 16.c3 Rxe4 17.Qh5 Kd8 18.Nxc7 Kxc7 19.Qxf7+ Be7 20.Rab1 Ba6 21.Rfd1 Rf8 22.Qb3 Rb8 23.Qe6 Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Bd3 25.Rd1 f4 26.Qd5 Bc2 27.Rc1 Re2 28.a4 e4 29.a5 Bd3 Vit spelar 7.Sgf3 (2722)-11...Qc7 12.Nbd2 cd4 13.c, 4 (2707) RUS-USA m Ruschess. com INT 2005 (1.2) 1-0;

C) 15.Nxb4 Nxb4 *(15...Qxc7? 16.Nd5∓)*]

14.0-0= Rg8 15.f4N The position is equal.

[15.c3 f4 16.Nf6+ Qxf6 17.Qxa4 f3 18.g3 Qh6 *(18...Qh4 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Nxf3 Qxe4 21.Nd2 Qd3 22.Rfd1 Nd8 23.Qb3 Bg4 24.Nc4 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Qf3 26.Qa4+ Qc6 27.b5 Qb7 28.b6+ Qc6 29.Nxd6+ Bxd6 30.Qxc6+ Nxc6 31.Rxd6 Rg6 32.Rd5* 17.Bg5 h6 (2541)-Cox,V (2330) 1.hm Shakhmaty v SSSR-40 JT Shakhmaty v 1966 *)* 19.Nd4 exd4 20.Qxc6+ Bd7 21.Qa8+ Ke7 22.e5 dxc3 23.exd6+ Qxd6 24.Rad1 Qc7 25.Rxd7+ Kxd7 26.Re1 Qc8 27.Qd5+ Bd6 28.Qxf7+ Kc6 29.Qc4+ Kd7 Solovjov,S (2422)-Pankov,G (2341) Saint Petersburg 98/96 2006]

15...Kd8!

[15...fxe4?! 16.fxe5 Rg6 17.Nbc7+ Kd8 18.Rxf7±]

[15...Nxb4 16.c3 *(16.Ndc7+? Kd7-+)* 16...Nxd5 *(16...Rxa2? 17.Rxa2 Nc6 18.Ra8+-)* 17.Qxa4 Nxf4 18.Nxd6+ Ke7 19.Qe8+ *(19.Nxc8+ Kf6=)* 19...Kxd6 20.Rad1+ *(20.Qxc8? Rxg2+ 21.Kh1 Qxh2#)* 20...Kc7 21.Qxe5+ *(21.Qxf7+? Qe7-+)* 21...Kc6 22.Qe8+ *(22.Qxf4 Bc5+ 23.Kh1 Qxf4∓; 22.Rxf4 Qe7+-)* 22...Kb6 23.Rb1+ *(23.Qxc8? Rxg2+ 24.Kh1 Qxh2#)* 23...Kc7 24.Qxf7+ Qe7 25.Qxg8+-]

16.c3 Ra6 17.a4 -1.19/11

[17.Nbc7∓ -0.40/15 Ra7 18.Nb5]

17...fxe4∓ 18.f5? -2.85/12 Loses the game.

[18.Ra2∓ -1.14/10]

18...Bb7 19.Ra2 -3.37/12

[⌓19.Qc2 -2.08/10]

(Diagram)

19...e3!-+ Hoping for ...Ne7. **20.Nxe3** -3.25/17

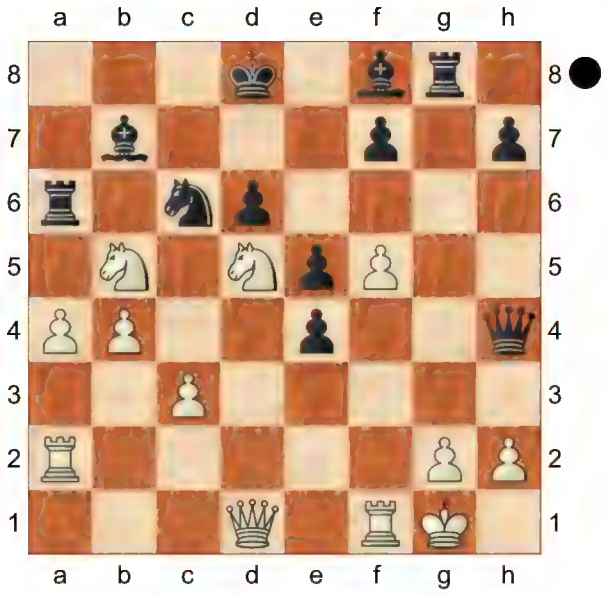
[20.Nbc7 -1.82/7 keeps fighting. Ne7 21.b5]

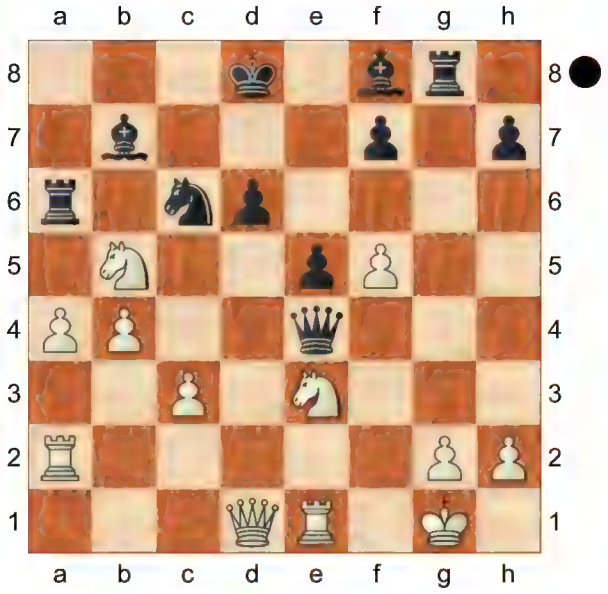
[20.Rc2 Nd4]

20...Qe4

[But not 20...Na7 21.Raf2-+]

21.Re1

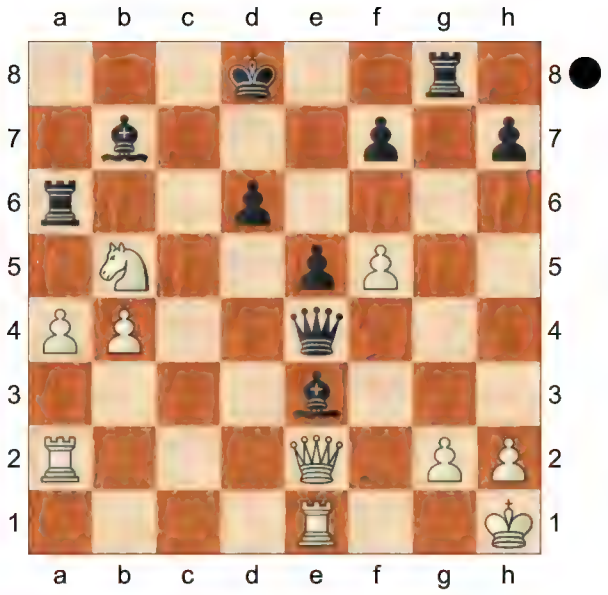




Nxb4! 22.cxb4 Threatens to win with Nc3. **22...Bh6! 23.Kh1 Bxe3** A strong pair of Bishops. **24.Qe2**

(Diagram)

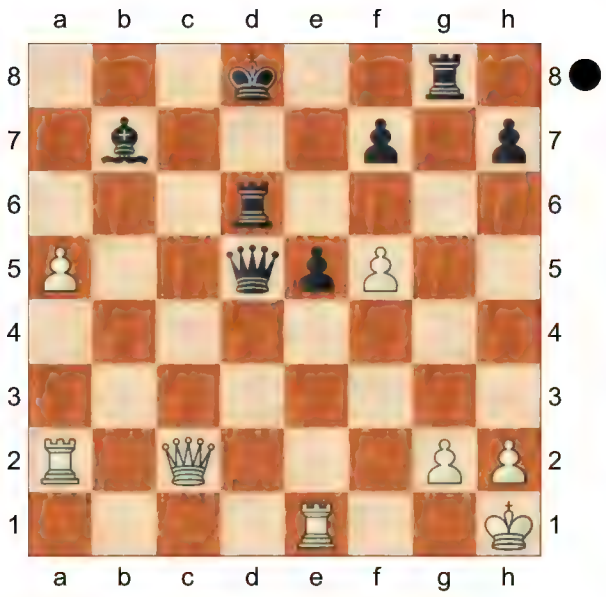
Rc6! 25.a5
[25.h3 Rg3]
25...Qxb4 26.Nxd6
[26.Rb2 gets mated. Rc2 27.Qxe3 Bxg2+ *(27...Qxb2? 28.Qb6+ Kc8 29.Nxd6+ Kb8 30.Qxb7+ Qxb7 31.Nxb7-+)* 28.Kg1 Bf3+ *(28...Rxb2*



29.Qb6+ Ke7 30.Qc7+ Kf6 31.Qxd6+ Qxd6 32.Nxd6 Be4+ 33.Kf1 Bd3+ 34.Re2 Rxe2 35.Ne4+ Rxe4+ Discovered Attack (Check) *36.Kf2 Re2+* Skewer *37.Kf3 Kxf5 38.h4 e4#)* 29.Kf1 Rg1+ *(29...Rxb2 30.Qxf3; 29...Qc4+* leads to mate. *30.Re2 Rc1+ 31.Qxc1 Qxc1+ 32.Re1 Qxb2 33.Re3)* 30.Kxg1 Qg4+ 31.Kf1 Qg2#]
26...Rxd6 27.Qxe3 Qd4 (-> ...Qxe3)
28.Qc1 -7.84/13
[28.Qg1 -3.48/9]
28...Qd5 Black is clearly winning.
29.Qc2

(Diagram)

Rxg2! 30.Qxg2 Qb5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.82/ Black=0.33.
Loses game: White=1 ---
Mistake: White=4
Black=1
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=1
OK: White=2
Black=6



Best: White=2
Black=3
Strong: ---
Black=2
Brilliant: ---
Black=1
0-1

B33

□ **Tomic,B**
■ **Kanellopoulos,G**
Eu-Youth Boys-u20 (13) 18.10.1999
[Fed]

7 a4 is a very underrated approach. It's something to keep an eye on for both sides. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.a4 a6 8.Na3 Be7 9.f3 This ruins the whole thing. Just the normal 9 Nc4 or 9 Bc4 look reasonable. Now some dark squares have been weakened. 9...Be6 10.Bc4 Rc8 11.Nd5 0-0 12.Be3 Bxd5 13.Bxd5 Qa5+ 14.c3 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nb8 Now Black looks to be slightly better. Both of White's minor pieces are misplaced and Black has the f5 possibility. 16.Qb3 Qc7 17.Bb6 Qd7 18.0-0 Bd8 19.Be3 Qc7 20.Rac1 Nd7 21.c4 Nc5 22.Qc2 Qa5 23.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 24.Kh1 Bb6 25.Qc3 a5 26.Nb5 Rcd8 27.Rce1 f5 28.Qa3 Rf7 29.Qxc5 Bxc5 30.g3 Re8 31.Kg2 Rfe7 32.Re2 e4 33.f4 Kf7 34.Rd1 Kf6 35.Nd4 Bxd4 36.Rxd4 h6 37.Rd1 g5 38.Rf1 Rc8 39.b3 g4 40.Re3 h5 41.Rc3 Rh7 42.Re3 h4 43.Ree1 Rch8 44.Rh1 Ke7 45.Re3 Kd7 46.Ree1 Kc7 47.Re3 Kb6 48.gxh4 Rxh4 49.Rg3 Kc5 50.Re3 b6 51.Rg3 Rh3 This opening has potential for White.
0-1

B33

□ **Auzins,Maris**
■ **Cimmino,Pietro**
EU/MSM/V/1-11 1994
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.Qh5 Rg8 13.g3 Rc8 14.c3!
[14.Qxh7 Rg6 15.Qh5 *(15.exf5? Rh6-+)* 15...Nd4∓]
14...Rg6 15.Qf3N
[15.exf5? Bxd5 16.fxg6 hxg6 *(16...Bxh1? 17.gxh7 Bg7 18.Bf5+-)* 17.Bxg6 fxg6 *(17...Bxh1 18.Bxf7+ Kd7 19.Ke2±)* 18.Qxg6+ Bf7∓]
[15.Qxh7? Rh6 16.Qg8 fxe4 17.Bxe4 f5-+]
[15.Nc2 fxe4 *(15...Rh6 16.Qe2 Bxd5 17.exd5 Ne7 18.f3 Bg7 19.Ne3 f4 20.gxf4 Ng6 21.0-0-0 Nxf4 22.Qc2 Qb6 23.Nf5 Rg6*

24.Be4 b4 25.c4 Kf8 26.Rd2 Rc5 27.Ng3 Qc7 28.Kb1 Bh6 29.Qb3 Rg7 30.Nf5 10.♔b1 b5 11.c5 7382 (2780)-9.♗f3 ♕c7 10.♗e3 69246 (2655) 67/454 Dortmund 1996 (12) ½-½ *)* 16.Bxe4 Bg4 17.Qh4 Qxh4 18.gxh4 f5 19.h5 Rg7 20.h3 *(20.Nce3 fxe4 21.Nxg4 Kf7 22.Ngf6 Ke6 23.0-0-0 Ne7 24.Nxe7 Bxe7 25.Nxe4 d5 26.Ng3 Rf7 27.Rhf1 b4 28.Kc2 bxc3 29.bxc3 Bb4 30.Ne2 Bxc3 31.Nxc3 d4 32.Rd3 Rfc7 33.Kb2 Rxc3 34.Rd2 Kd5* X.Cheng-A.Shabalov (Game 36) Chicago 2006 0-1 *)* 20...Bxh3 21.Bf3 Bg4 22.Nf6+ Kd8 23.Bxg4 fxg4 24.Ne3 b4 25.Nfxg4 bxc3 26.bxc3 Na5 27.Rc1 Kd7 28.Ke2 Ke6 29.c4 Rf7 Kiss,L (2391)-Schuster,A (2383) 24/583 Primorsko 1977 0-1]

15...Bxd5 16.exd5 The position is equal. **16...e4 17.Qxf5 Rg5!**

[17...exd3 18.dxc6 Re6+ *(18...Qe7+ 19.Kf1±)* 19.Kf1±]

18.Qf4

[18.Qxe4+ Re5 19.dxc6 Rxe4+ 20.Bxe4 d5-+]

18...exd3

[18...Rxd5? 19.Bxe4 Re5 20.0-0+-]

19.dxc6 aiming for 0-0-0. **19...Re5+!**

[19...Rxc6?! 20.0-0+- *(20.0-0-0 d5±)*]

20.Kf1 Qb6 Really sharp!

[20...Rxc6?! 21.Rd1±]

21.Qf3 -0.78/11

[21.Rg1= -0.04/9 remains equal.]

21...Qxc6∓ Black is more active. **22.Kg2** -1.15/8

[White has to play 22.Qxc6+∓ -0.59/10 Rxc6 23.Re1]

22...Qxf3+ 23.Kxf3 Kd7! White must now prevent ...d5. **24.Rhd1 Rf5+ 25.Kg2 Re8! 26.Rd2**

[26.Rxd3? perishes. Re2 27.Rf1 Rxb2-+]

26...Rfe5 0.88/11

[Inferior is 26...Re2 27.Rxe2 dxe2 28.Re1±]

[26...d5!∓ -0.42/17 keeps the upper hand.]

27.Rad1 0.00/10

[27.Rxd3± 0.88/11 Rad1 would now be deadly. Re2 28.b4]

27...Re2= 28.Kf1 R8e6 29.Nb1 -0.38/8

[29.b4= 0.00/13]

29...Bh6∓ 30.f4 Bf8 31.b3 Kc6 32.a3 Bg7 33.Rxd3 -0.55/10

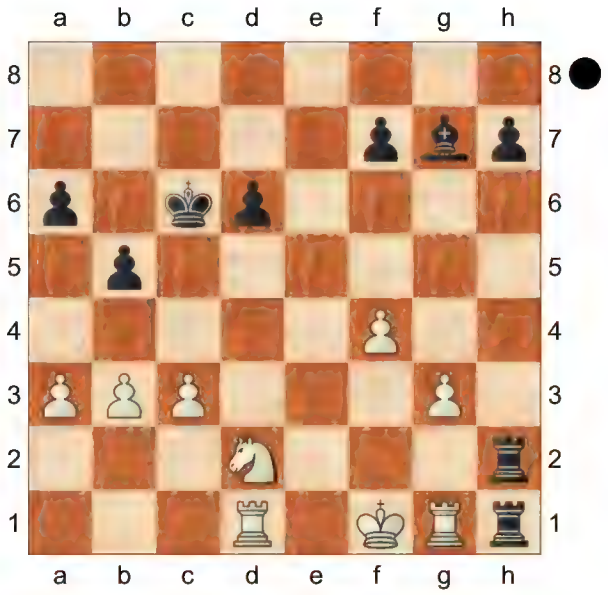
[33.h3!= -0.12/24 might be stronger.]

33...Rxh2 34.R3d2 Reh6↑ Strongly threatening ...Rxd2. Black has good play. **35.Rg2 Rh1+ 36.Rg1 R6h2** -1.18/21

[⌓36...R1h2 -0.80/13 Threatens to win with ...Rb2. 37.Rg2 R6h5]

37.Nd2 -2.52/9

[37.Rxh1∓ -1.18/21 Rxh1+ 38.Ke2 Rh2+ 39.Ke3]

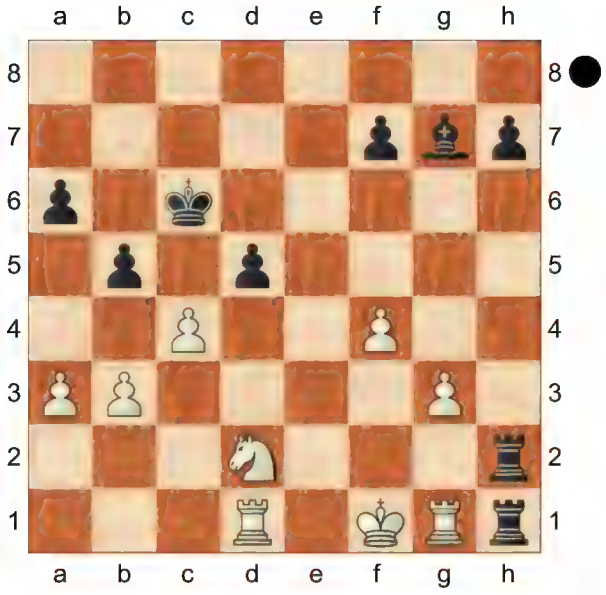


White does not recover from this.

37...d5!-+

[37...Bxc3 38.Ne4 Rxg1+ 39.Kxg1±]

38.c4? -4.16/11
[38.Nf3 -2.53/12 was worth a try. Rxg1+ 39.Kxg1]



38...bxc4! 39.bxc4 Bd4 Pin **40.Rxh1 Rxh1+ 41.Ke2 Rxd1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless) .
Mistake: White=7
Black=2
Inaccurate: White=1
Black=2
OK: White=11
Black=7
Best: White=2
Black=5
Strong: ---
Black=6
0-1

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.c3** This move gives me mixed memories because in my first game ever in the Sveshnikov variation which I played in the last round of the U14 Soviet Championship, I was 12 at the time, and in the game, my opponent played this c3 move. **11...Bg7** This is the correct move here. **12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Nc2** What is good about this position is that you can get it against both Bf5 and Bg7. This was causing quite some trouble for Black in the 90s

as I painfully recollect now. But finally now it seems that Black has found ĊĊStartBracketĊĊI can say partly thanks to my effortsĊĊEndBracketĊĊ a way to equalize against this move. **13...Be6** This is another playable position that I played many times, but I prefer 13...O-O because of White's a4 idea. **14.g3 0-0 15.Bg2 a5 16.0-0 f5** 16...Rb8 is also possible. **17.Qh5** 0.12/21

[17.a4± 0.52/18 Rb8 18.b4]

17...Rb8=

[17...b4 18.Nce3 bxc3 19.bxc3 Kh8 20.Rad1 Rb8 21.Bh3 *(21.Rd2 Rb5 22.Rfd1 Rc5 23.f4 e4 24.Bh3 Qc8 25.c4 a4 26.Kh1 a3 27.Qg5 Bxd5 28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.Rxd5 Nd4 30.Nxf5 Nxf5 31.Rxf5 Qxc4 32.Rxf8+ Bxf8 33.Qf6+ Bg7 34.Qd8+ Qg8 35.Qxg8+ Kxg8* Wallace,W (2379)-6.♘e5 e6 7.f3 52697 (2332) Vienna 1. Email-ch 2002 (1) 1-0 *)* 21...Qd7 22.f4 e4 23.Kh1 Rb2 24.Nc4 Rxa2 25.Nde3 Bf7 26.Qg5 Bxc4 27.Nxc4 d5 28.Ne5 Qe6 29.g4 Bxe5 30.fxe5 Qxe5 31.Bg2 f4 32.Qxe5+ 11...Qc7 12.Nbd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2670)-Bolz,B (2590) Belgrade 1948 0-1]

18.Rad1 Qd7N 0.55/20 White has good control over the center with his pieces and the d6-pawn is weak, but Black has his counterplay. Black normally plays ... Kh8 and is looking for the right moment to play ...e4 and ...Ne5. It's playable for both sides.

Mistake: ---

Black=1

OK: White=1 ---

[18...Kh8= 0.13/20 19.Rd2 Bf7 20.Qh3 Ne7 21.Nxe7 Qxe7 22.Qxf5 Bc4 23.Qh5 Bxf1 24.Be4 Bf6 25.Kxf1 Chess Informant ECO Chess Informant ECO B4 2002]

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**

■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.c3** This move gives me mixed

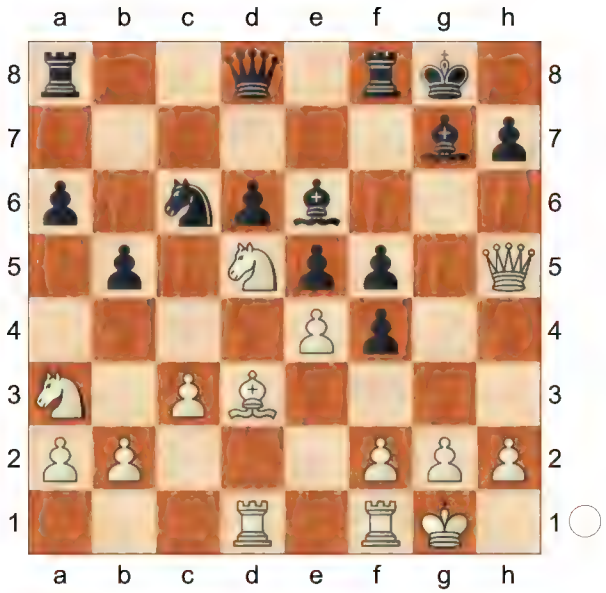
memories because in my first game ever in the Sveshnikov variation which I played in the last round of the U14 Soviet Championship, I was 12 at the time, and in the game, my opponent played this c3 move. **11...Bg7** This is the correct move here. **12.Bd3 Be6** White has two options here. **13.Qh5** The main line. **13...0-0** As dangerous as it looks I can assure you it is safe to castle, I have done it many times in my career. **14.0-0 f4** The simplest. **15.Rad1** This move is directed against f5. **15...f5N** 0.95/21

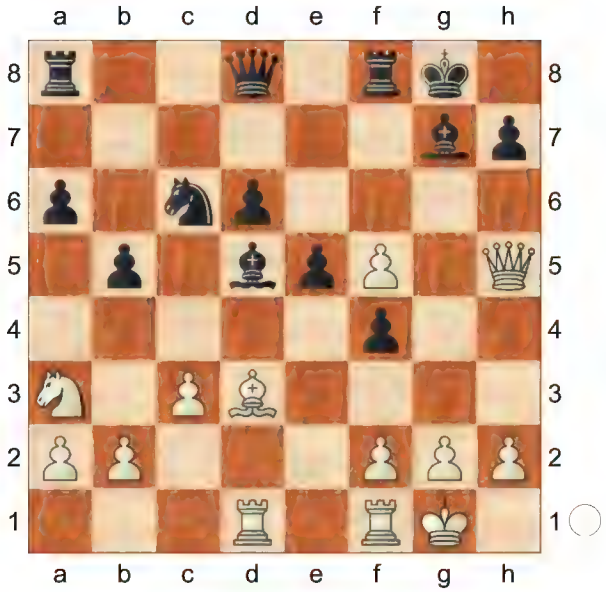
[15...Kh8

A) 16.g3 Rg8 17.Kh1 Bf8 18.Be2 Rg5 19.Qf3 f5 20.gxf4 *(20.exf5 Bxf5 21.Nxf4 exf4 22.Qxc6 Rc8 23.Qf3 fxg3 24.fxg3 d5 25.Qg2 Bxa3 26.bxa3 Qe7 27.Bf3 Be4 28.Qd2 Qg7 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Qe3 Re5 31.Kg1 Rf8 32.Rxf8+ Qxf8 33.Qd4 Qe7 34.Kf2 Qf6+* Wohl,R (2747)-13.Rad1 Qb6 14.b3 (2617) Analysis 1999 (11) ½-½ *)* 20...fxe4 21.Qxe4 Bf5 22.Qe3 exf4 23.Nxf4 Ne5 Anand,V (2790)-Leko,P (2745) 80/152 Wijk aan Zee 2001;

B) 16.Nc2 Rg8 17.Kh1 Bf8 18.Qe2 Rg6 19.g3 Bh6 20.gxf4 Bxf4 21.Nxf4 exf4 22.f3 Ne5 23.Nb4 Qh4 24.Qf2 Rg3 25.Be2 Rag8 26.Nd3 Bh3 27.Nxf4 Bxf1 28.Rxf1 Rg1+ Martin,A-Gonsberger,A corr 1994 0-1]

(Diagram)





16.exf5 0.31/19 White is more active.

[White should play 16.Bc2!± 0.95/21]

16...Bxd5±

White is slightly better. **17.f6!** Some like it hot **17...Rxf6**

[17...h6 18.c4]

18.Bxh7+ Kf8 19.Rxd5 The main point. White is much better because of his control over the dark squares.

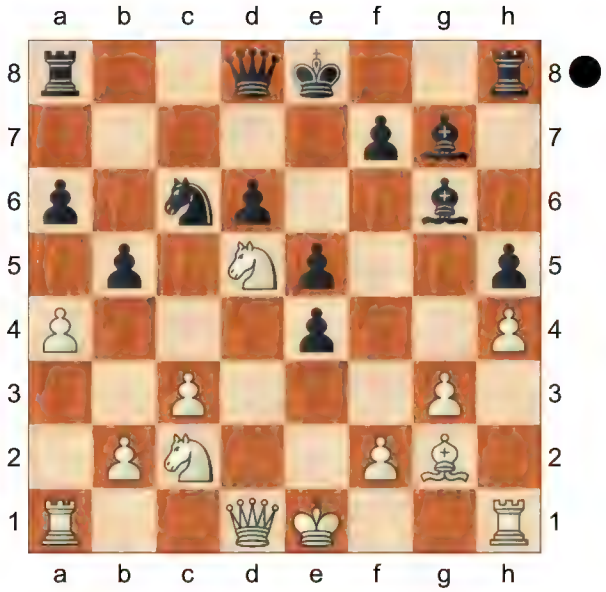
Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.29 (precise) .

Mistake:	White=1	---
OK:	White=1	---
Best:	White=1	
Black=2		
Brilliant:	White=1	---

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.g3** This is an interesting move that is currently out of fashion, Black needs to be accurate after this move. Since I don't see any advantage anyway in other lines, this is a nice weapon to throw at your opponent. **11...fxe4 12.Bg2 Bf5** This seemingly normal-looking move just protecting the pawn is bad for Black! **13.c3** White has compensation. **13...Bg7 14.Nc2** Black will not manage to keep the pawn alive. A dynamic duo of knights. **14...Bg6**
[14...0-0 15.Nce3 Bg6 16.h4 h6 17.h5 Bh7 18.g4 Qg5 19.Qd2 Rac8 20.Rd1 Kh8 21.Nb6 Rcd8 22.Qc2 Ne7 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 f5 25.gxf5 Nxf5 26.Ke2 Nxe3 27.fxe3 Rf5 28.Rdg1 Qf6 29.Nd5 Motina,A (1327)-Yusupova,Z (1462) Ufa Penzina Memorial 2023 (4) 0-1]
15.h4 It seems that Black is in trouble here. White is slightly better. **15...h5N**
[15...f5 16.h5 Bf7 17.Nce3 Be6 18.h6 Bf8 19.Qh5+ Kd7 20.Bh3 Lesson Sveshnikov The,T-Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5]
16.a4



This is quite nice, all of a sudden White starts to bother Black on the other side of the board. And now axb5 would win. **16...bxa4 17.Rxa4** This is also very good for White. Rc4! is the strong threat. **17...f5 18.Rc4!** White is more active.

18...Rc8 19.Ncb4 Nxb4 20.Qa4+
A lot of tactics, with a very powerful initiative for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.13 (very precise) .
Inaccurate: White=2
Black=1
OK: White=2
Black=3
Best: White=2
Black=1
Strong: White=1 ---

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
Klovans,J: 'Inf 54/(172)' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6** We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.c3** This move gives me mixed memories because in my first game ever in the Sveshnikov variation which I played in the last round of the U14 Soviet Championship, I was 12 at the time, and in the game, my opponent played this c3 move. **11...Bg7** This is the correct move here. **12.Bd3 Be6** White has two options here. **13.Qh5** The main line. **13...0-0** As dangerous as it looks I can assure you it is safe to castle, I have done it many times in my career. **14.exf5** There is this move for White here. **14...Bxd5 15.f6** Looks dangerous but very direct play ensues. **15...e4 16.fxg7 Re8 17.Be2!** The board is on fire.

[17.Bc2 Re5 18.Qh3 b4 19.cxb4 Nxb4 20.0-0 Rc8 21.Bb3 Be6 22.Bxe6 Rxe6 23.Qb3 Nd3 24.Nc2 d5 25.Nd4 Rb6 26.Qa3 Qf6 27.Nb3 Qxg7 28.Rad1 Qe5 29.Nc1 Nxb2 30.Rde1 Rc3 31.Qa5 Nc4 12.Qg4 Kf8 13.Re1-Ojanen,A Chapter 7 Game 8 2010 0-1]

17...Ne5N You can check this position further, Black has enough activity here. Not much happened in this game.
Strong: ---
Black=1

[17...Re5 18.Qh6 Rg5 19.Nc2 Rxg2 20.Ne3 Rg6 21.Qf4 Be6 22.h4 d5 23.h5 Rf6 24.Qh4 Qe7 25.Rd1 Rd8

26.a3 Rd6 B2 Nh3-Abdi,F Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee 1985 27.Nc2 Qd8 28.Nd4 Nxd4 29.Rxd4 Kxg7 Zvonitsky,V-Klovans,J (2410) corr 54/(172) 1989]

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...Bg7** Although not the mainline, according to modern theory this is a decent way of playing. I don't see a real advantage for White here. You need to know that this variation is much more forcing than 10... f5 and Black is basically trying to make a forced draw, therefore you really need to memorize the following variations. **11.Bd3** The main move here in this position. **11...Ne7** Since Bd3 cut the queen's access to the d5-square, this is the perfect timing to attack it with Ne7. **12.Nxe7 Qxe7** This is the position where play gets very direct. **13.0-0 0-0** It is pretty clear that sooner or later White willl try to get his knight into the game and he has two different ways to do it: c4 and c3. **14.c3** As White in my opinion, I suggest you try this move c3. Even though it is out of fashion I think it is very playable. Black is okay objectively but it is less forcing and Black will have to make some accurate moves to get there. **14...f5** Of course. **15.Nc2** Black is at a crossroad now, what to do with the center? **15...d5 16.exf5 e4 17.Be2 Rd8** Not a lot of games here at the top level, I think Black still needs to play accurately to equalize this position. **18.a4** Typical idea, weakening the queenside. **18...bxa4 19.Rxa4 Bxf5 20.Rxa6** Taking the pawn is a straightforward draw for Black. **20...Rxa6 21.Bxa6 Qg5** Prevents Qd2. **22.Qc1 Qxc1 23.Rxc1 Be6N** With f5 next, Black has enough play to steer the game into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless) .
OK: White=3
Black=5
[23...Rb8 24.Ne3 Be6 25.b4 f5 Sveshnikov 9. Bxf6,1-Sveshnikov 9. Bxf6,1]

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.c4** Also not a good move but was played by Hikaru Nakamura in a classical game long time ago against Boris Gelfand. **11...Qa5+** This move is much stronger, it probably even is slightly better for Black. Gelfand played 11...b4 which is also perfectly fine. **12.Qd2 Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Bh6+ 14.Kd1 fxe4N** Many moves are fine for Black, including 14...Kf8 .

[14...0-0 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Bxb5 Nd4 18.Ne7+ Kg7 19.Nxf5+ Nxf5 20.Bd3 Ne7 21.Nb5 d5 22.Ke2 e4 23.Bc2 Rab8 24.a4 f5 25.Rhd1 Kf6 26.g3 Rfc8 27.Bb3 Rc5 28.f4 Bg7 29.Rdc1 5.♗e2 0-0-0 6.♗e3 (2704)-Ornolfsson,M (2693) corres 1977 1-0 Rcxb5 30.axb5 Rxb5 31.Ra6+ Kf7 32.Ba2 Rxb2+ 33.Kd1 Rxh2 34.Rc7 Rxa2 35.Rxa2 Bf6 36.Ra5 Ke6 37.Ra6+ Kf7 38.Ra5 Ke6 39.Ra6+ Kf7 40.Rd7 h5 41.Rdd6 Bg7 42.Ra7 d4 43.Rd5 Bf6 44.Rxf5 5.Be2 0-0-0 6.Be3 (2704)-Ornolfsson,M (2693) corres 1977 1-0]

15.cxb5 Nd4 ...axb5 would now be deadly. **16.Nc7+ Ke7 17.Nxa8**

Hoping for h3. **17...Bg4+** A strong pair of Bishops. **18.Ke1 Rxa8 19.bxa6** aiming for b4. **19...d5** A very forced line. Black is a lot more active with a nice center, two powerful bishops and a

strong knight on d4. Black is probably slightly better here according to the engines, in a practical game I don't think this is playable. A rather calm draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless) .
Inaccurate: --- Black=1
OK: White=4 Black=6
Best: White=3 Black=1

B33

□ **Schlechter,Carl**
■ **Lasker,Emanuel**
Wch10 Vienna/Berlin (9) 1910
[JvR. MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Notes by J. R. Capablanca.' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'ChessBase II Notes by J. R. Capablanca.' **1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** The Lasker-Pelikan variation is a good choice for sharp play. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Altogether unusual and I believe not very good as Black's d pawn remains weak. It is not easy, however, to discover how to get at it, and for a surprise the move proved first-class, as Black got the better game. ; Altogether unusual and I believe not very good as Black's d pawn remains weak. It is not easy, however, to discover how to get at it, and for a surprise the move proved first-class, as Black got the better game.' **6.Nb3?!** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '6.Ndb5, I believe was the right answer. Black would then have to play 6...d6, not 6...Qa5 because of 7.Bc4 and if then 7...Nxe4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qd5+ with the better game.' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '6.Ndb5, I believe was the right answer. Black would then have to play 6...d6, not 6...Qa5 because of 7.Bc4 and if then 7...Nxe4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qd5+ with the better game. ChessBase II: '6.Ndb5, I believe was the right answer. Black would then have to play 6...d6, not 6...Qa5 because of 7.Bc4 and if then 7...Nxe4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qd5+ with the better game."
[Schlechter allows a weakening in his surprise. 6.Ndb5! will become theory. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '⏢' '⏢' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: ', I believe was the right answer. Black would then have to play' d6 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 *(*not *6...Qa5?* (José Raúl Capablanca_12741) because of *7.Bc4* and if then *Nxe4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qd5+±* Capablanca with the better game. *)* 7.a4 Schlechter]
6...Bb4! 7.Bd3 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Bd6 José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Black has now a beautiful game, which shows that White's treatment of the opening was not the best. ; Black has now a beautiful game, which shows that White's treatment of the opening was not the best.' **11.Qh5**
[11.0-0 0-0 12.f4 f5 13.fxe5 Bxe5 14.Qf3 Be6 15.Rae1 Bd5 16.Qh3 g6 17.c4 Bf7 18.Kh1 Qd6 19.Be3 Rfe8 20.Bg1 Bg7 21.Rd1 Qc7 22.Bf2 Be5 23.c3 Bg7 24.Bg3 Ne5 25.Nd4 Bxc4 N,N-N,N Albin

Countergambit: Budapest Gambit Ga 2023]

11...Qc7N

[11...g6 12.Qh6 Bf8 13.Qe3 Bg7 14.Qc5 Qe7 15.Qxe7+ Nxe7 16.0-0-0 0-0 Sveshnikov Variation-Rare Options On Move _2010 2022]

12.0-0 Be6 13.Bg5!? Only opportunism offers prospects.

[13.Be3 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 0-0-0 14.Nc5? -3.30/12 Schlechter *(14.Rfb1=* 0.14/17 and White is okay. *)*]

13...h6 Prevents f4 **14.f4!?** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Sacrificing a pawn for an attack on the center against the king. He might have played some move like 14.Rad1 and waited for developments, as Black could not castle on either side. , Sacrificing a pawn for an attack on the center against the king. ' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Sacrificing a pawn for an attack on the center against the king. He might have played some move like 14.Rad1 and waited for developments, as Black could not castle on either side. , Sacrificing a pawn for an attack on the center against the king. ChessBase II: 'Sacrificing a pawn for an attack on the center against the king. He might have played some move like 14.Rad1 and waited for developments, as Black could not castle on either side." **14...exf4**

[14...hxg5? 15.Qxh8+ Bf8 16.fxg5+-]

15.Rae1! Threatens Rxe8+. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'á 16.á e6' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'á 16.á e6 ChessBase II: '∆ 16.♖e6" **15...Kd7**

[15...0-0? 1.94/18 15...Kd7 -0.23 16.Bxh6! gxh6 17.Qxh6 and White has a draw at least. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '+-' '+-']

[15...hxg5? 16.Qxh8+ Bf8 17.Bc4+-]

16.Bf5!? -2.93/20 Schlechter battles bravely and threatens 17.Qxf7! José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '!!' '!!'

16...Raf8? -0.11/18 Lasker misses the first chance. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Here is what Lasker himself has to say about the situation, and I agree with him: "Here Black could have played 16...Qb6+ 17. Kh1 g6. White could not now sacrifice his queen, for after 18.Rxe6 gxh5 19. Re7+ Kd8 20.Rd7+ Ke8 21.Bf6 Be5, and White has no satisfactory continuation. On the other hand, after 18.Bxe6+ fxe6 19.Qxg6 hxg5 20.Qxe6+ Kc7 21.Qf7+ Kb8 22.Nd4 Black would be confronted by great difficulties, as White would threaten 23.Rb1, followed by the sacrifice of the rook. But it has been proven by analysis that I could have escaped all danger. The move actually made appeared also very strong, but by a fine combination Sclechter nearly equalized the game." Abgabezug The move actually made appeared also very strong, but by a fine combination Sclechter nearly equalized the game."' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Here is what Lasker himself has to say about the situation, and I agree with him: "Here Black could have played 16... Qb6+ 17.Kh1 g6. White could not now sacrifice his queen, for after 18.Rxe6 gxh5 19.Re7+ Kd8 20.Rd7+ Ke8 21.Bf6 Be5, and White has no satisfactory continuation. On the other hand, after 18.Bxe6+ fxe6 19.Qxg6 hxg5 20.Qxe6+ Kc7 21.Qf7+ Kb8 22.Nd4 Black would be confronted by great difficulties, as White would threaten 23.Rb1, followed by the sacrifice of the rook. But it has

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[He analyses José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Here is what Lasker himself has to say about the situation, and I agree with him: "Here Black could have played' 16...Qb6+! José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '!?' '!?' 17.Kh1 g6 José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '. White could not now sacrifice his queen, for after On the other hand, after' 18.Bxe6+ Lasker mentions the move *(18.Rxe6* -4.34/19 18.Bxe6+ -2.84 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 *gxh5 19.Re7+ Kd8 20.Rd7+ Ke8 21.Bf6 Be5-+* , and White has no satisfactory continuation. *)* 18...Kc7! *(18...fxe6 19.Qxg6 hxg5 20.Qxe6+ Kc7* White must now prevent ...Rxh2+! *21.Qf7+ Kb8 22.Nd4* and White has a strong attack. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '∆ ♖b1, ♖b7 ∓ Lasker Black would be confronted by great difficulties, as White would threaten 23.Rb1, followed by the sacrifice of the rook. But it has been proven by analysis that I could have escaped all danger.' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '∆ ♖b1, ♖b7 ∓ Lasker Black would be confronted by great difficulties, as White would threaten 23.Rb1, followed by the sacrifice of the rook. But it has been proven by analysis that I could have escaped all danger. ChessBase II: '∆ ♖b1, ♖b7 ∓ Lasker" *)* 19.Qd1 hxg5 20.Bh3 *(20.Bxf7?* -#3/15 20.h3 -3.97 *Rxh2+!)* 20...g4? -1.07/20 is very favourable for Black. *(20...f5!-+* -3.94/20 *21.Qd5 Rad8)*]

[16...hxg5? 0.29/7 16...Qb6+ -2.82 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 17.Qxf7+!±]

[16...hxg5 17.Qxf7+ Kc8 18.Qxe6+ Kb8 19.Rd1±]

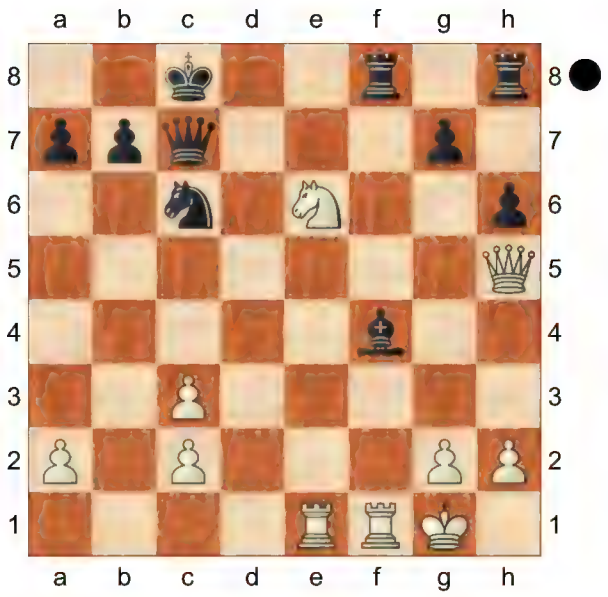
[16...g6-+ -2.93/20 17.Bxe6+ fxe6 18.Qxg6 Qb6+ *(18...hxg5? 19.Qxe6+ Kd8 20.Rd1+-)* 19.Kh1 hxg5 20.Qxe6+ Kc7 21.Qf7+ Kb8]

17.Bxf4= Deflection **17...Bxf4 18.Nc5+ Kc8** ...Nd8 is the strong threat.

19.Bxe6+ fxe6 20.Nxe6

(Diagram)

Bxh2+ He misses the second chance. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Right. Not 20...Qd6 because of 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.g3 Be5 23.Rxf8+ Qxf8 24.Rxe5 Nxe5 25.Qxe5 and White is a pawn ahead.



Also, if 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.Qf5+ and White is the exchange ahead. Also 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 g5 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.g3 Bd6 24. Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Re8+ Nd8 26.Qh3+ Kc7 27.Rxf8 with the exchange to the good. Also 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Bxf8 23.Re8+ Nd8 24.Qf5+, followed by 25.Rxf8 winning. ; Right.' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Right. Not 20... Qd6 because of 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.g3 Be5 23.Rxf8+ Qxf8 24.Rxe5 Nxe5 25.Qxe5 and White is a pawn ahead. Also, if 20... Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23. Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.Qf5+ and White is the exchange ahead. Also 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 g5 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.g3 Bd6 24.Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Re8+ Nd8 26.Qh3+ Kc7 27.Rxf8 with the exchange to the good. Also 20... Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Bxf8 23. Re8+ Nd8 24.Qf5+, followed by 25.Rxf8 winning. ; Right. ChessBase II: 'Right. Not 20...Qd6 because of 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.g3 Be5 23.Rxf8+ Qxf8 24.Rxe5 Nxe5 25.Qxe5 and White is a pawn ahead. Also, if 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.Qf5+ and White is the exchange ahead. Also 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 g5 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 23.g3 Bd6 24. Rxf8+ Bxf8 25.Re8+ Nd8 26.Qh3+ Kc7 27.Rxf8 with the exchange to the good. Also 20...Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bd6 22.Nxf8 Bxf8 23.Re8+ Nd8 24.Qf5+, followed by 25. Rxf8 winning." **21.Qxh2 Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Qd7** Exchange does not lead to a better endgame in this case. **23.Nc5 Qe7 24.Qh3+ Kb8 25.Ne6 Ka8 26.Nd4 Qc7 27.Qf5 Rc8** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '?' '?' **28.Qc5**

[28.Ne6! José Raúl Capablanca_12741]

28...Nb8 José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '!' '!' **29.Qxc7 Rxc7** Endgame. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'The attack is over and Black has the better game. ; The attack is over and Black has the better game.'. KRN-KRN **30.Rf3 a6 31.Kf2?**

[A counter-attack on the king's side with 31.Rg3! is necessary.]

31...Nc6 32.Ne6 Re7 33.Re3 Kb8 Black got the time for consolidation. Manoeuvring begins. **34.Nd4 Rf7+ 35.Rf3 Rc7 36.Ne6 Re7 37.Re3 Kc8** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Black has skillfully improved his position. ; Black has skillfully improved his position.' **38.Ke2 Nd8 39.Nd4 Rf7**

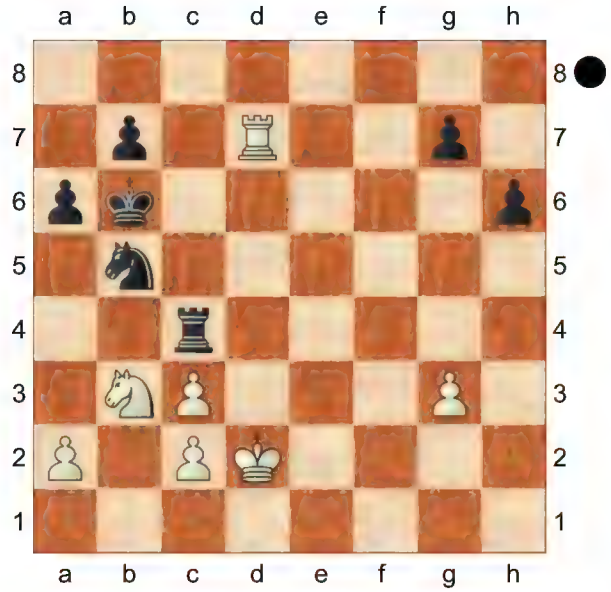
[Premature is 39...Kd7 40.Nf5 Rxe3+? 0.00/31 *(40...Rf7!∓* -0.43/28 *41.Rd3+ Kc7)* 41.Kxe3= Ne6 42.g4!]

40.Rf3 Kd7 Now the exchange of rooks helps Black. **41.Rd3 Ke7 42.Re3+ Kd6 43.Rd3** -0.63/18

[43.Rg3= -0.27/19 deserves consideration.]

43...Ne6∓ If the knights are exchanged, Black wins on the king's side. **44.Nf3+ Kc5 45.g3** Wards off Nf4+ **45...Nc7 46.Nd2 Kc6 47.Nf3 Kb5 48.Rd4 Kc5**

49.Nd2 Nb5 50.Nb3+ Kb6 51.Rd3 -0.96/25
[51.Rc4!∓ -0.53/24]
51...Rc7 52.Kd2 José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Abgabezug / sealed move' **52...Rc4! 53.Rd7** -1.08/22
[53.Nd4? Nxc3 54.Rxc3?? -3.24/19 *(*White must play *54.Nf5!∓* -0.44/20 *Nxa2 55.Rd6+ Kc5 56.Rg6)* 54...Rxd4+ José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '-+' '-+' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Schlechter']
[White should try 53.Nd4!∓ -0.49/21]



53...Rg4!∓
[53...Nxc3?! 54.Rxg7 h5 *(54...Nxa2?! 55.Rxb7+* Decoy *Kxb7 56.Na5+ Kb6 57.Nxc4+ Kc5 58.Ne3=)* 55.Rh7=]
54.c4!? José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '?' '?' **54...Kc6** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '!' '!'
[54...Rxc4 -0.01/15 54...Kc6 -1.03 José Raúl Capablanca_12741 55.Rxg7 *(55.Rxb7+* -1.44/24 55.Rxg7 0.00 *)*]
[54...Rxc4?! 55.Rxb7+ Kxb7 56.Na5+ Kc7 57.Nxc4∓]
55.Rd3 -2.31/20
[55.Re7∓ -1.23/17 Na3 *(55...Rxc4 56.Na5+ Kd6 57.Rxg7±)* 56.Re6+ Kd7 57.Nc5+ Kc7 58.Ne4]
55...Nd6-+ José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '∆ 56... ♘c4, 56... á g3' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'á 56... á c4, 56... á g3 ChessBase II: '∆ 56... ♘c4, 56... ♖g3"
[55...Rxc4? is the wrong capture. 56.Na5+ Kc5 57.Nxc4+- *(57.Nxb7+ Kb6=)*]
56.Nd4+ The deserved equaliser can be scored. **56...Kc7??** -0.08/18
Lasker misses the third chance. The rest of the match has the level of coffeehouse chess. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '?' '?' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Lasker says, "A regrettable oversight; 56...Kb6 would have won the game." It is indeed unfortunate that he did not play 56...Kb6. Lasker had very skillfully brought his advantage to a point where it would tell and at the moment he is going to reap the fruit of his fine play, makes a slip and fails to win the game that was almost a necessity for him. ; Lasker says, "A regrettable oversight; Lasker had very skillfully brought his advantage to a point where it would tell and at the moment he is going to reap the fruit of his fine play, makes a slip and fails to win the game that was almost a necessity for him.' José Raúl Capablanca_12741: 'Lasker says, "A regrettable oversight; 56...Kb6 would have won the game." It is indeed unfortunate that he did not play 56...Kb6. Lasker had very skillfully brought his advantage to a point where it would tell and at the moment he is going to reap

the fruit of his fine play, makes a slip and fails to win the game that was almost a necessity for him. ; Lasker says, "A regrettable oversight; Lasker had very skillfully brought his advantage to a point where it would tell and at the moment he is going to reap the fruit of his fine play, makes a slip and fails to win the game that was almost a necessity for him. ChessBase II: 'Lasker says, "A regrettable oversight; 56...Kb6 would have won the game." It is indeed unfortunate that he did not play 56...Kb6. Lasker had very skillfully brought his advantage to a point where it would tell and at the moment he is going to reap the fruit of his fine play, makes a slip and fails to win the game that was almost a necessity for him."

[56...Kb6! Threatens to capture the c- or g-pawn. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '-+ Lasker would have won the game. " It is indeed unfortunate that he did not play 56... Kb6.' 57.c5+!? Kxc5 58.Ne6+ Kc6 Strongly threatening ...Rxg3! 59.Nd8+ -3.80/32 *(59.Nd4+ -2.33/19* might work better. *Kc7 60.Ne2)* 59...Kc7-+ 60.Ne6+ Kd7 61.Nc5+ Ke7 -1.93/18 and wins. José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '∓' '∓' *(⌓61...Kc6* -3.90/20 *62.Ne6 Ne4+ 63.Ke3 Nc5)*]

[56...Kb6-+ -2.16/23 Threatens to win with ...Rxg3! 57.Kc3 Ne4+ 58.Kb2 Nc5 *(58...Nxg3 59.Ne6∓)*]

57.Ne6+= The position is equal. **57...Kc6 58.Nd8+!** José Raúl Capablanca_12741: '=!' '=!' **58...Kc7 59.Ne6+ Kd7 60.Nxg7 Ke7**

[60...Rxg7!? 61.c5□ Pin Rxg3 62.Rxd6+ *(62.c6+? Kxc6 63.Rd4 h5-+)* 62...Kc7=]

61.Nh5 Rxc4 62.Re3+ Kf7 63.Rf3+ Kg6 64.Rf6+ Kxh5 65.Rxd6

Lasker complained about the final chance. He did not solve the 'problem Schlechter' in this match. His attacks were answered with prophylaxis and the abilities in the endgame were equal. Tactics remained.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise) .

Loses game: White=1 ---
Missed win: --- Black=2
Mistake: White=4 ---
Inaccurate: White=1 Black=3
OK: White=25 Black=26
Best: White=5 Black=4
Strong: White=1 ---

½-½

B33

☐ **The Sveshnikov - 6th move alt**
■ **The Sicilian Sveshnikov 6.Nf3**

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 This is the only move that leads to the Sveshnikov Sicilian. It is important to understand that since white can play 3. Bb5, a move that cant be played if black had played e6. This is not a disaster, but you need to know that this move order gives white this opportunity. In one of the following chapters, I will show you how to play against that. Also, 3. c3 is the Alapin variation where I will also cover the line using this move order Nc6. In the Sicilian you need to be prepared for all

possible scenarios and move orders. **3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5** This is the starting position of the Sveshnikov. The Sveshnikov is a unique opening where black plays aggressively and wants to fight for the initiative right from the start. This gives him enough time for quick development and a safe position for the king. But, by playing e5 black accepts a backward pawn on d6 and potentially a weak square on d5. This is one of the most uncompromising openings in chess. With this opening, you do not need to fight for equality, with this opening you can play for initiative right from the start ! Today this is the opening choice for many leading players in the world. Ex-world champion Vladimir Kramnik plays it with great success. Here I will try to explain not only the forced lines but also the very complex strategy that is behind it. Let start first with the unusual 6th moves by white. **6.Nf3** This is one of four main alternatives to 5. Ndb5. This move does not give white any kind of advantage. Here and in other moves black has a strong reply, Bb4. With 5. Nf3 white is not doing anything to control the squares d4 and d5, and allows black to play for the advantage. **6...Bb4** A strong reply. Now black pins this knight on c3 and fights for the d5 square. In some lines, Black can double White's c pawns which could become very weak. Also after taking on c3, the d5 square will be in black's control, and the possible breakthrough d5 is strong. **7.Bc4** The only move that gives white chances to fight for equality. And if white needs to fight for equality in 7 moves then something is wrong with his idea. With 7. Bc4 white fights for control over the vital d5 square. **7...0-0 8.0-0** After this move white needs to be careful. The alternative 8. Qd3 or something similar, will not be enough even for equality. Because if white loses control over the d5 square, black will play d5 himself and get the initiative. **8...Bxc3** Now black doubles white's pawns on the c file and takes the central e4 pawn. **9.bxc3** The position is equal. **9...Nxe4 10.Ba3** A strong pair of Bishops. **10...d6** Black wants to play ...Bg4!

[10...Nxc3 11.Qd3 d5 12.Qxc3±]

11.Re1 Ng5

[Much worse is 11...Nxc3 12.Qxd6 Re8 *(12...Qxd6 13.Bxd6 Rd8 14.Bc7±)* 13.Qxd8 *(13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Qxd8 Rxd8±)* 13...Rxd8 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Rxe5±]

12.Nxg5

[12.Bxd6? perishes. Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Qg5+ 14.Kh1 Rd8-+]

12...Qxg5 13.Bxd6 Rd8N

[13...Bg4 14.Qc1 Qxc1 15.Raxc1 Rfe8 16.Bd5 Be6 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.a3 f6 19.f3 Red8 20.Red1 Bc4 21.Kf2 Kf7 22.Bc5 a6 23.Rb1 Ke6 24.Ke1 Rd5 25.Rxd5 Kxd5 26.Be3 Bb5 27.Rb4 g5 28.c4+ G.Mukhin-A. Minasian Leningrad (Game 2) 1990 0-1]

14.Qf3 Qf6

[Weaker is 14...Rxd6 15.Qxf7+ Kh8 16.Qg8#]

15.Qxf6 gxf6 16.Rad1 Be6

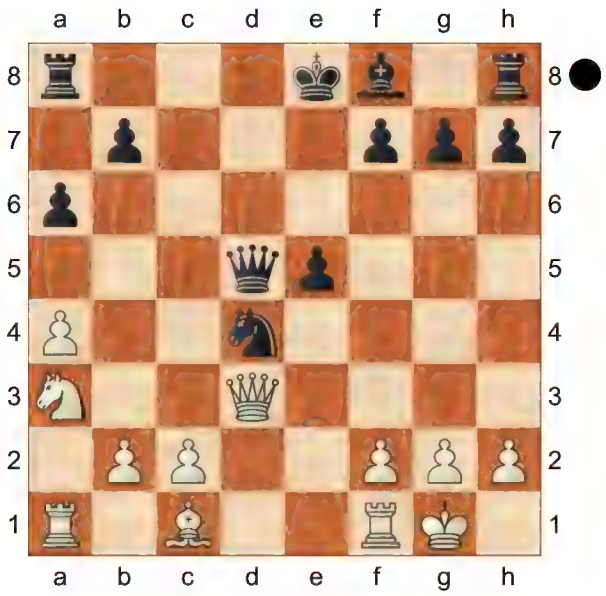
After a few forced moves, white will get the pawn back. White also develops all of his pieces and retains the bishop pair, but not for long. Now after 16.. .Be6 black forces white to take the bishop because the pawn on a2 is hanging and after that, he will not have the bishop's pair anymore, but double c pawns

forever. **17.Bxe6 fxe6** Although the position is about equal, the bad pawns on the c file give black better chances in the endgame. An uneventful encounter.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless) .
OK: White=6
Black=3
Best: White=1
Black=1

B33

☐ **The Sveshnikov - 7th move alt**
■ **The Sicilian Sveshnikov 7.a4**
[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 This is the only move that makes sense here. With this move, white gets a knight on the most active square and does not allow black to develop the dark square bishop before he plays d6. White needs to be careful not to allow black to play d5. Here d5 is not possible because white controls it with the pawn, the knight, and the queen. **6...d6** This is the only move for now. Black needs to play d6 and not to allow white to play Nd6. After this, black will try to play a6 and b5 and expand on the queenside, removing white's knight from the b5 square. **7.a4** This is the third alternative to 7. Bg5. With this move, white wants to prevent black from playing a6 - b5. But now white loses control over the d5 square. With next sequence of moves, Black takes over the initiative. Also, it's very important to understand why 7. Bg5 is the only good move for white. On any other alternative black can easily take over control over the position. **7...a6 8.Na3 Bg4** Great move. With this precise move, Black takes over control over the light squares and the vital d5 square. **9.Be2 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 d5** Now it is clear what happens. Black breaks through with d5 and takes over the initiative. The position is equal. **11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.0-0 Nd4N**
[13...Be7 14.Be3 0-0 15.Rfd1 Qe6 16.Qc4 Qg6 17.Qb3 Kh8 18.Nc4 f5 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Rae8 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.Rxd6 Qg4 23.Qg3 Re4 24.Rf1 Nd4 25.Qxg4 fxg4 26.Kh1 Kg8 27.g3 g5 28.Rd1 A.De Dovitiis-R.Felgaer Argentinean Ch., (Game 7) 2004 0-1]
14.Qd3



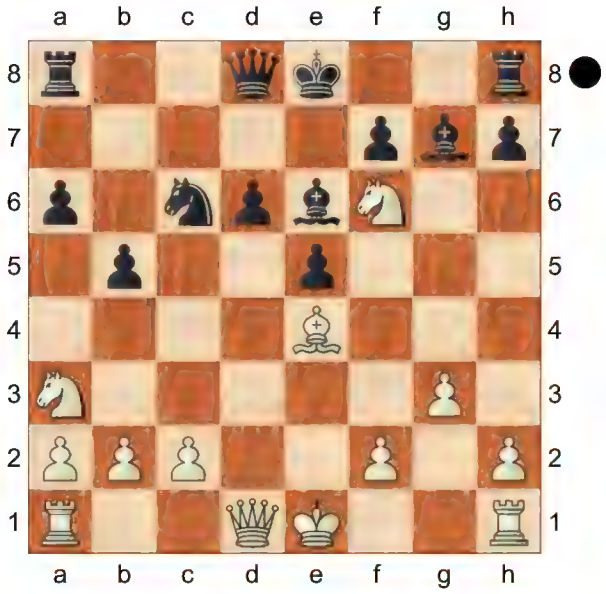
c3 is the strong threat. **14...Rd8 15.Be3 e4 16.Qxd4 Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Rxd4** Better development and a great rook on d4 give black a slight edge.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless) .
Inaccurate: White=1 ---
OK: White=3

Black=4
Best: White=1 ---

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**
[MH]

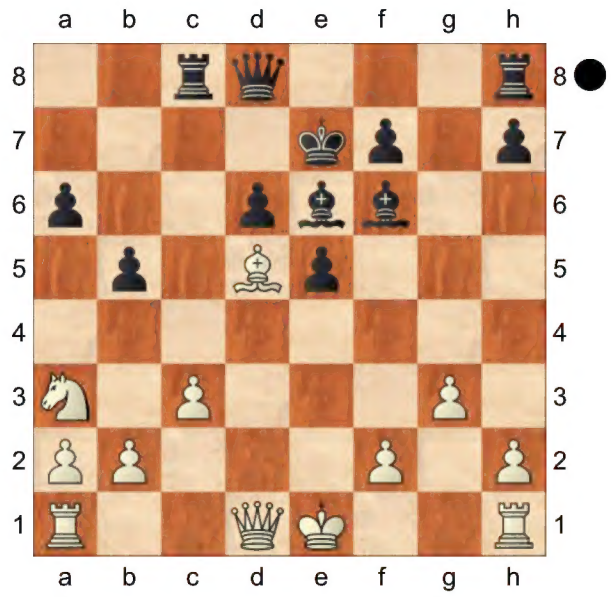
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.g3** This is an interesting move that is currently out of fashion, Black needs to be accurate after this move. Since I don't see any advantage anyway in other lines, this is a nice weapon to throw at your opponent. **11...fxe4 12.Bg2 Bg7** The best move. **13.Bxe4 Be6 14.Nf6+**



This is not something Black should worry about. Discovered Attack **14...Bxf6 15.Bxc6+ Ke7** ...Rc8 is the strong threat. **16.c3** Taking the rook is a terrible decision, Black would be a lot better after 16.Bxa8 **16...Rc8**
[16...b4!? 17.cxb4 Rb8=]
17.Bd5N
[17.Bg2 d5 18.Nc2 d4 19.cxd4 Qa5+ Chiburdanidze,M-Alexandria,N (m/1) 23/(374) 1977]

(Diagram)

17...b4! The most accurate. **18.cxb4 Qb6** Black takes back on b4, even though the king is in the center he is simply too active. The knight is still misplaced on a3 and will probably not get the chance any time soon to get it



out of there. A rather calm draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless) .
OK: White=4
Black=3

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**
■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5** *[MH]*

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.c3** This move gives me mixed memories because in my first game ever in the Sveshnikov variation which I played in the last round of the U14 Soviet Championship, I was 12 at the time, and in the game, my opponent played this c3 move. **11...Bg7** This is the correct move here. **12.Bd3 Be6**

White has two options here. **13.Nxb5** -0.23/20 Strangely enough this more or

less works now. **13...axb5= 14.Bxb5 Rc8** ...0-0 would now be deadly. **15.Qa4 Bd7**

[Don't go for 15...Bxd5? 16.exd5 0-0 17.dxc6+- *(17.Bxc6 e4+-)*]

16.exf5 The position is equal. **16...0-0 17.0-0 e4** An extremely important move which you need to know. Now Black is at least not worse.

[17...Kh8 18.Qe4 Rg8 19.a4 Bh6 20.g3 Rb8 21.b4 Rg5 22.Ne3 Rc8 23.Rfd1 Bf8 24.a5 f6 25.a6 Rg7 26.Bf1 Na7 27.c4 Bc6 28.Nd5 Ba8 29.Rab1 Rb8 30.b5 Nc8 31.Qd3 Bxd5 32.Qxd5 Cheparinov,I (2555)-Halkias,S (2541) Antalya 90/(122) 2004]

18.Rfe1N

[18.Qxe4 Re8 19.Qa4 Ne5 20.f6 Ra8 21.Qb4 Bxb5 22.Qxb5 Rb8 23.Ne7+ Kf8 24.fxg7+ Kxe7 25.Qd5 Qb6 26.Qe4 Kf6 27.Qxh7 Qxb2 28.Rab1 13.♕c2 ♘e5 14.♗e5 (2518)-O'Cinneide,M (2554) Dubai 2000 (8.5) 1-0]

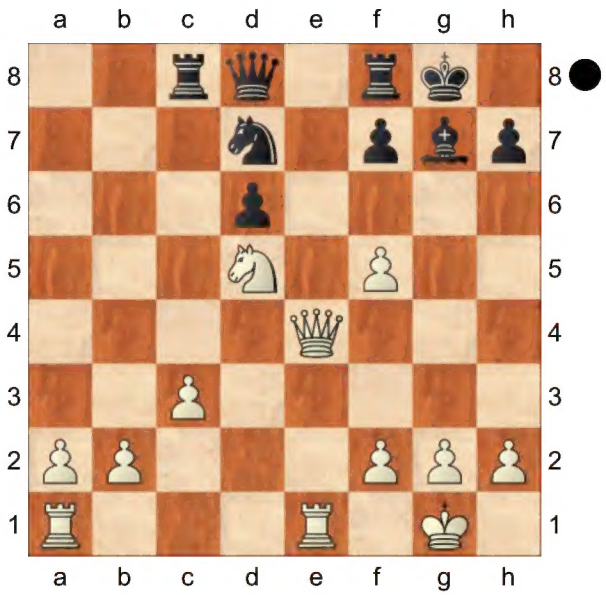
18...Ne5! Black finally manages to get rid of this unpleasant pin. **19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Qxe4**

[20.Rxe4 Nc5 21.Qc4 Nxe4 22.Qxe4 Re8-+]

(Diagram)

Hoping for Ne7+. **20...Nf6** Black has four pawns against Black's bishop but Black is not worse. One of White's extra pawns is doubled and White's pawn are not going anywhere anytime soon. If anyone can win this position it is probably Black, but objectively it is a draw. A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very



precise) /Black=0.01 (flawless) .

OK: White=5

Black=6

Best: White=1 ---

B33

☐ **The Sveshnikov - 7th move alt**

■ **The Sicilian Sveshnikov 7.a4**

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 This is the only move that makes sense here. With this move, white gets a knight on the most active square and does not allow black to develop the dark square bishop before he plays d6. White needs to be careful not to allow black to play d5. Here d5 is not possible because white controls it with the pawn, the knight, and the queen. **6...d6** This is the only move for now. Black needs to play d6 and not to allow white to play Nd6. After this, black will try to play a6 and b5 and expand on the queenside, removing white's knight

from the b5 square. **7.a4** This is the third alternative to 7. Bg5. With this move, white wants to prevent black from playing a6 - b5. But now white loses control over the d5 square. With next sequence of moves, Black takes over the initiative. Also, it's very important to understand why 7. Bg5 is the only good move for white. On any other alternative black can easily take over control over the position. **7...a6 8.Na3 Bg4** Great move. With this precise move, Black takes over control over the light squares and the vital d5 square. **9.f3 Be6 10.Bc4**

[10.Be3 Nb4 11.Nc4 d5 12.Bb6 Qe7 13.exd5 Nbxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bf2 Rd8 16.Qd2 Nb4 17.Qc3 Qg5 18.Rd1 Nxc2+ 19.Qxc2 Bb4+ 20.Nd2 Bf5 21.Qc1 Rc8 22.Qa1 Bc2 23.h4 Qf4 24.g3 Qxf3 De Firmian,N (2553)-Vallejo Pons,F (2662) Selfoss Milk Masters 2nd 2003 (3) 0-1]

10...Rc8 11.0-0

[11.Nd5 Be7 12.Be3 0-0 13.0-0 Ne8 14.Kh1 Kh8 15.Nb6 Rc7 16.Qd3 Nd4 17.c3 Bxc4 18.Naxc4 Ne6 19.Rfd1 Rc6 20.b4 Bg5 21.Bg1 Nf4 22.Qc2 Qc7 23.Qb3 d5 24.exd5 Rh6 25.Ra2 Nh5 Palsson,J (2194)-2. Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nd4 (2181) HUN-ch18 Budapest 1963 (7) 1-0]

11...Nb4N Here it is clear that black can now play d5 next and take the initiative, so white needs to stop it.

[11...Ne7 12.Nd5 Bxd5 13.Bxd5 Nexd5 14.exd5 Be7 15.b3 0-0 16.Be3 Qa5 17.c4 Nd7 Sveshnikov Variation-Rare Options On Move 2022]

12.Nd5 Prevents Qb6+. **12...Nbxd5 13.Bxd5** The position is equal. **13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bf5 15.Be3 Be7 16.c3 0-0 17.Qd2** -0.85/20

[17.Qe2= -0.22/19 keeps the balance.]

17...Qa5 Black has a clear edge in this position. The bishop pair and white's bad pawn on a4 give black the better chances.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless) .

Mistake:	White=1	---
Inaccurate:	White=1	---
OK:	White=2	
Black=2		
Best:	---	
Black=1		

B33

☐ **Lesson Sveshnikov The,T**

■ **Sveshnikov 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5**

[MH]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 We will analyze 9.Bxf6 in this lesson. **9...gxf6** 9...Qxf6 doesn't make any sense as after 10.Nd5 Qd8 Black gets a worse version of the 9.Nd5 variation. **10.Nd5** First of all, I would like to apologize in advance because in this lesson, there will be a lot of theory and a lot of variations. But what to do? The Sveshnikov is a very important variation and in this line, the price of a move is very high. Quite often both sides will have to make only moves. Of course, there are general ideas: Black is trying to push ...f5 by all means and White is trying to play c2-c3 to get the knight into the game. White will usually need also

to blockade the centre while trying to use the central squares to create strategic and tactical possibilities. On the other hand, despite Black's weird pawn structure, he gets a powerful center. But frankly, all of these details won't be relevant as you will see the variations are very direct in many lines and you just need to know the theory move by move. **10...f5** This was my preferred choice when I was playing the Sveshnikov. White has plenty of replies here so let's look at them one by one. **11.g3** This is an interesting move that is currently out of fashion, Black needs to be accurate after this move. Since I don't see any advantage anyway in other lines, this is a nice weapon to throw at your opponent. **11...fxe4 12.Bg2 Bg7** The best move. **13.Bxe4 Be6 14.Qh5** This is how White manages to stop castling. **14...Rc8 15.c3 Ne7 16.Rd1 Rc5** The position is equal. **17.Nxe7N**

[17.Nb4 Qb6 18.Qg5 Kf8 19.Qe3 f5 *(19...h5 20.Nd3 Rc6 21.Bxc6 Qxc6 22.f3 Bh6 23.Qf2 a5 24.0-0 h4 25.g4 Nd5 26.Nc2 h3 27.Nc1 Bg5 28.Ne2 Bd8 29.Kh1 Bb6 30.Qg3 b4 31.Ncd4 exd4 32.Nxd4 Bxd4 33.Rxd4 bxc3 34.bxc3* Chapter-Games Chapter 7 Game 2 *)* 20.Bg2 e4 21.Nac2 Kf7 *(21...a5 22.Nd4 Bc4 23.Nbc2 Kf7 24.Nb3 Bxb3 25.axb3 b4 26.c4 Bxb2 27.0-0 Rb8 28.Qf4 Ng6 29.Qxd6 Qxd6 30.Rxd6 a4 31.bxa4 Rxc4 32.Ne3 Rc5 33.Rb1 Bc3 34.Bh3 Ne7 35.Bf1 Rbc8 36.Bb5* 17.h5?! (2645)-Chigogidze,K (2663) Sharjah Challengers 6th 2023 (3.3) ½-½ *)* 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Rd8 24.Qe3 a5 25.Nc2 Bxa2 26.b4 axb4 27.cxb4 Rc6 28.Nd4 d5 29.Nxc6 Qxc6 30.0-0 Bc4 31.Rfe1 Qd6 4.♘c3 a6 5.♗g5 35745 (2588)-Szecsi, P (2588) EU-ch U18 f-A 6768 1967 0-1]

17...Qxe7 18.Nc2 Threatening Ne3 with a strategically winning position. Ne3 would now be deadly. **18...d5** Just in time. **19.Bf5!** Now 19...d4 is the simplest to make a draw. This variation is very well-known and it really puts Black to the test. I don't understand why this is out of fashion as White is risking very little. A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless) .

OK:	White=1	---
Best:	---	
Black=1		
Strong:	White=1	---